






## Book'em - Bringing Kids and Books Together

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**Book'em creates a more literate Nashville by helping economically disadvantaged children from birth through high school discover the joy and value of reading through book ownership and enthusiastic volunteers.**

### Book'em programs include:

-  **Books for Nashville Kids** provides books year-round to children from birth through high school without many books of their own.
-  **Ready for Reading** places reading volunteers in community preschools focusing on children in low-income areas. These reading role models read with small groups of preschoolers once a week.
-  **Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)** places volunteers in Title I elementary schools in Davidson County providing readers and books to these children five or eight times throughout the school year.

**“In middle income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children.”** *Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. 2006*

**“Children who grow up in homes where books are plentiful go further in school than those who don't. Children with low-education families can do as well as children with high-education families if they have access to books at home.”**  
*(Family scholarly culture and educational success: Books and schooling in 27 nations)*

***Books, to the reading child, are so much more than books—  
they are dreams and knowledge, they are a future, and a past.—Esther Meynell***

## You Can Help:

- 📖 Become a **reading role model volunteer** – contact Pam Sheridan at [volunteers@bookem-kids.org](mailto:volunteers@bookem-kids.org).
  - 📖 Through **Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)**, volunteers read and distribute books to their assigned elementary classroom 5 or 8 times during the school year. The time commitment is about 1 hour per visit – 30 minutes in the classroom and 30 minutes selecting books at Rose Park Middle, driving and returning extra books.
  - 📖 Through **Ready for Reading**, volunteers read to a small group of preschoolers and/or one-on-one with preschoolers at their assigned child development center once a week or every other week. The time commitment is about 30 minutes per visit.
- 📖 Organize a **book drive and/or donate books to our Books for Nashville Kids program** – contact Debbie Settles at [books@bookem-kids.org](mailto:books@bookem-kids.org).
  - 📖 Working with your congregation, work, or club, and through birthdays, anniversaries, etc., collect books for **Book'em**.
  - 📖 Donate books from your bookshelves that you are ready to pass on. (Book'em can use books for adults, children and teens.)
- 📖 Volunteer in our **Books for Nashville Kids book room** – contact Debbie Settles at [books@bookem-kids.org](mailto:books@bookem-kids.org).
  - 📖 Volunteers get incoming donated books ready to be distributed and pack up books to be given to lower-income youth throughout Davidson County. Most volunteers help in our book room about once a week for 1-2 hours.
- 📖 Make a **financial donation** to provide books for Nashville kids – contact Melissa Spradlin at [ceo@bookem-kids.org](mailto:ceo@bookem-kids.org).
  - 📖 Book'em gets deep discounts on books.
  - 📖 Checks can be made to Book'em and mailed to Attn: Melissa Spradlin, Book'em, 161 Rains Ave, Nashville, TN 37203.
  - 📖 Credit card donations can be made online at [www.bookem-kids.org/donate](http://www.bookem-kids.org/donate).