



Kindergarten reading readiness is a first foundational skill. Developed between the ages of 0 to 5, it determines success throughout a child's school career and life. While we know that getting children prepared for kindergarten is critical, few programming resources exist to help develop this skill.

Begin Bright is Nashville Public Library's early literacy campaign to set children up for kindergarten reading success through a groundbreaking, transformational plan.

NPL's approach involves delivering a Little Library and corresponding resources to every childcare center in the county, providing in-person and on-demand digital trainings for parents and teachers, and enlisting a national research organization to study the impact over four years, creating an actionable, measurable model that will transform the early literacy landscape.

NPL's three goals directly help a child become reading ready.



*A Little
Library*



*A Literacy
Lifeline*



*A Learning
Laboratory*



Access to books is one part of solving the literacy problem, but parents and childcare professionals need to know how to effectively share these books with children to inspire a love of reading.



Our Vision

We know how critical early reading is to future success, and fostering a love of stories is paramount to creating that desire to read. There exists a moment when a child begins to read, and everything clicks. Literacy is the key that unlocks access to new worlds.

Nashville Public Library is uniquely poised to support and nurture our youngest citizens on their literacy journey. Through the expansion of evidence-based, time-tested, programs like Bringing Books to Life that provide training for childcare center teachers and parents, coupled with the addition of Little Libraries in childcare centers throughout the city, and a longitudinal research study to measure the results, we will create a national model that shifts the paradigm for kindergarten reading readiness.

We know that the ages between 0 to 5 are critical in a child's brain development and form a foundation for future learning success.¹ It is imperative that we reach children during these important early years.



1: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/brain-architecture/#neuron-footnote>

The Plan

This strategy is created from evidence-based practices, demonstrated strengths, and builds on both NPL's reputation and Bringing Books to Life's existing relationships in the community. These factors position the program for success.



A Little Library

Establishing Little Libraries filled with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books in childcare centers that reflect the users, and include accompanying lesson plans and professional development resources



A Literacy Lifeline

Building on NPL's trusted flagship early literacy program - Bringing Books To Life - to offer **enhanced training for parents and teachers, in-person and digitally**



A Learning Laboratory

Pioneering a wraparound literacy support program in collaboration with Vanderbilt University's Prenatal to 3 Policy Impact Center to create measurable results and evidence-based guidance

What's included?

- Bringing Books to Life (BBTL) program, has existing relationships with more than 150 of the county's 400+ licensed childcare and preschool programs. Little Libraries will begin with current BBTL partners and then expand to others.
- Each library will consist of the core collection of high quality, vetted books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- Specially designed display and storage containers will house the collections.
 - Additional books will be added regularly and replaced as needed.
- High quality resources will accompany the collection.

What will support look like?

- BBTL will utilize its expertise to create on-demand digital content and training, for parents and childcare professionals, using the Little Library book collection.
- BBTL will provide in-person coaching, enhanced professional development, and parent workshops
- English and Spanish language training will model use of the books intentionally.
- Short, dynamic videos will empower parents to not only read to their children but give them an understanding of why this activity is so important to their child's success.

What will be examined?

- BBTL staff will identify two to three childcare centers to pilot expanded services.
- The research will assess both short-term and four-year impact on childcare centers throughout the county.
- We will study the impact of the digital support on parents and teachers.
- Data will shape long-term decisions regarding program services and ongoing program evaluation.
- Researchers will conduct an implementation and impact study to create measurable results and evidence-based guidance that will serve as a scalable, replicable model aimed at making population level change.

~45,000

children under age 5 live in Davidson County. Nearly half of them are in some form of childcare. By offering trainings to both parents and teachers, we can reach kids where they are.



Our Road Map

Our campaign goal is ambitious, but because of the research, relationships, and expertise of our partners, completely feasible.

Not only will we launch this four-year comprehensive plan, but our goal enables us to provide steady funding for its future through the creation of an endowment. While the work will continue after year four, the first years provide a critical foundation to ensure future success.



A Little Library

YEAR 1

Establish timeline and delivery method, base library, and storage for existing BBTL partners
Begin delivery of Little Libraries in partner facilities



A Literacy Lifeline

Establish parameters and build out digital platform
Identify two-three childcare centers for pilot program of wraparound services
Hire critical staff and begin content development for program expansion and digital content creation
Begin digital content creation for parents



A Learning Laboratory

Engage the research partner
Define the impact evaluation and the implementation study
Begin evaluation with pilot programs

YEAR 2

Accelerate creation and delivery of Little Libraries in BBTL partner facilities and begin expansion to new partners

Launch on-demand, digital content platform with content for parents using books in Little Libraries
Accelerate content creation for digital platform
Pilot wraparound services, coaching, enhanced professional development, and parent workshops

Continue to measure and refine program based on results

YEAR 3

Expand delivery of Little Libraries to all Davidson County childcare providers

Begin development of professional development resources for childcare workers
Enhanced coaching and professional development more widely offered to partners
Evaluate partnership structure based on research and emerging outcomes

Continue to measure and refine program based on results
Develop data dashboard with short / long term evaluation metrics to communicate results broadly

YEAR 4

Continue to add to and replenish books in the collections
Add Little Libraries to new childcare centers as they are established

Launch professional trainings on digital platform
Continue the development of resources
Continue to update and add content as new books are added the collection
Implement new partnership structure while continuing to provide the pilot program created in first three years

Summarize findings and share research widely to provide a road map for implementation in other communities

Join Us

We invite you to invest in what works. Together, we will illuminate the magic of reading for Nashville's children, and in doing so, set them on course for a richly literate life.



The Nashville Public Library Foundation is an independent registered 501(c)(3) whose mission is to raise private support for Nashville Public Library.

We fund, advocate, and amplify Nashville Public Library to power literacy, life skills, and connection for all.

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