

# BOOK BABIES



## Co-creating a Home Literacy Environment from Birth, with Parents

### WHAT IS BOOK BABIES?

Book Harvest's **Book Babies** program provides families of Medicaid-eligible children with resources, skills, and support to optimize their child's early language and literacy skills. Beginning when a baby is born, **Book Babies** partners with parents and provides quarterly literacy coaching home visits, a total of 100+ age-appropriate and language-appropriate books, and a host of additional supports through Pre-K and kindergarten enrollment.



### WHY BOOK BABIES MATTERS

- 80% of all brain development occurs in the first three years of life. [1]
- Reading regularly with children from birth stimulates patterns of brain development and strengthens parent-child relationships at a critical time in a child's life. [2]
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents read to their children from birth. [3]

### HOW BOOK BABIES WORKS

**Book Babies** uses a unique evidence-based curriculum that has been shown to enhance early childhood language development and foster parent engagement. Over the course of five years starting at birth, families enrolled in **Book Babies** receive individualized, literacy coaching sessions throughout each year, age appropriate children's books (in English and Spanish), and a custom-made bookshelf to hold the books. When a child reaches two-and-a-half, families receive literacy kits that further the development of dialogic reading, phonemic awareness, and emergent writing. **Book Babies** families also receive parent networking opportunities, a graduation celebration upon completion of the program, and more.



[1] National Research Council. (1998). Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.  
[2] [3] Council on Early Childhood (2014) Literacy Promotion: An Essential Component of Primary Care Pediatric Practice  
[4] <https://bookharvest.org/book-babies/>

### ABOUT BOOK HARVEST

*Book Harvest's mission is to provide books every child, support for every parent, and literacy for every community. Since 2011, Book Harvest has provided more than two million books to families in North Carolina and beyond, ensuring that children grow up with abundant home libraries and parents have the tools and power to ignite and strengthen their children's literacy. With programs that are grounded in evidence, Book Harvest believes that literacy starts at birth, in the home, powered by parents, and nourished with books. For more information, contact Cheri Coleman at 984-244-2868, [cheri@bookharvest.org](mailto:cheri@bookharvest.org).*