

BOOK BOXES



Providing an Abundance of Books Wherever Families Are

WHAT ARE BOOK BOXES?

Book Harvest's **Book Boxes** are colorful, outdoor book access hubs placed in community settings that families frequent. In close collaboration with community partners, **Book Boxes** are installed in front of child care centers, public parks and recreations centers, faith communities, social service agencies, health clinics and schools. They are filled with dozens of books in English and Spanish for children of all ages; precious titles that children and families can choose to take home and build their own home libraries.



WHY BOOK BOXES MATTER

- Access to free books is essential to close the equity gap for people living in poverty. [1]
- A network of community partners/partnerships results in enhanced family engagement. [2]
- When families have easy access to books, they develop reading routines at home. [3]



HOW BOOK BOXES WORK



Book Harvest team members and volunteers design, construct, and install easily recognized **Book Boxes** in partnership with local community organizations and businesses. These colorful book hubs provide children and families with an abundance of free books in the places they go in their everyday lives. Different from Little Free Libraries, **Book Boxes** are intentionally installed in neighborhoods where existing access to resources is lacking, and the boxes do not include any expectation of leaving books -- only taking them! In addition, **Book Boxes** contain children's books exclusively.

[1] <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.3102/0034654320922140>

[2] <https://soarwithreading.com/research-and-impact/>

[3] <https://ila.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/trtr.1905>

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 Caitlyn B. Smith at caitlyn@bookharvest.org.