

WASH & LEARN DURHAM:



WASH TIME IS TALK TIME



The Laundromat Literacy Movement has come to North Carolina!

Recognizing that families spend an average of 2.5 hours at the laundromat each time they visit, North Carolina nonprofit Book Harvest collaborated with partners to launch **Wash & Learn Durham**, a dynamic new initiative to turn wash time into a time of literacy enrichment and brain building for children.

Book Harvest teamed up with the LaundryCares Foundation, Libraries Without Borders, the Triangle Learning Network, and Too Small to Fail to hold a **Free Laundry Day** launch of Wash & Learn Durham at two Wash House Laundromats in Durham on Saturday, February 23, 2019.

A total of 686 people from 188 households turned out for the daylong Free Laundry Day celebration, completing a whopping 22,250 pounds of laundry. Durham Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson cut the ribbon; 255 free lunches were served; and families enjoyed storytimes, learned about ongoing literacy programs and resources available to them at the laundromat, and filled up bags with books to take home and keep forever.

Book Harvest knows that the key to making sure children and families have what they need to achieve their literacy goals is meeting families where they are. That's why they added Wash & Learn Durham to their portfolio of programs, all of which are aimed at helping children build home libraries and partnering with parents in supporting their children's academic success.

Book Harvest provides storytimes and literacy programming at three Durham Wash House locations every week (schedule available online at bookharvestnc.org/wash-and-learn-durham). Also, at all three locations, Book Harvest maintains bookshelves filled with free children's books that are available any time the laundromats are open; children are invited to choose an unlimited number of books from these shelves to take home and keep forever.

The launch of Wash & Learn Durham was made possible with a generous grant from the Triangle Learning Network.



book harvest

Book Harvest provides an abundance of books and ongoing literacy support to families and their children from birth and serves as a model for communities committed to ensuring that children are lifelong readers and learners.