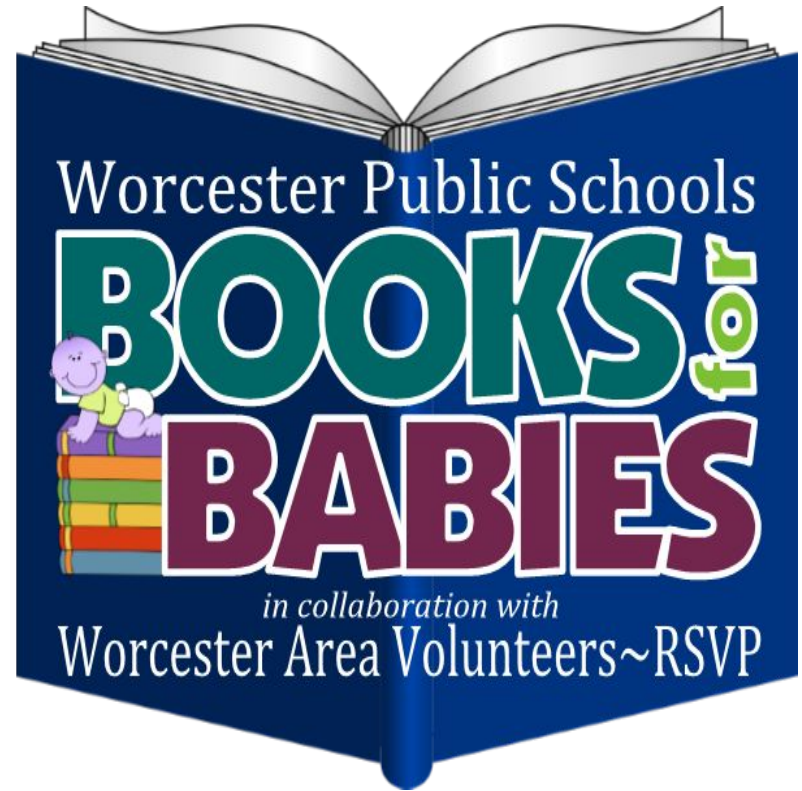


An Early Literacy Program for New Mothers

2020 REPORT



worcesterschools.org/about/community-partnerships/books-for-babies/

Elizabeth Vecchio, Program Coordinator
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Sponsored by _____



RSVP

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Bay State *Savings Bank*



WORCESTER

The City That Reads



where great stories begin™

Family Services

OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS



MISSION

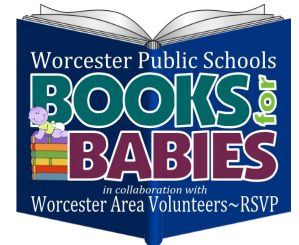
To put an age-appropriate book in the hands of every new mom who lives in the city of Worcester so that she may read to her infant.

DESCRIPTION

The *Worcester Public Schools Books for Babies Program* is an early literacy initiative for new mothers to help their child be reading ready when they begin their education. Learning to read can start at home long before children enter school. Moms, dads, grandparents, guardians and caregivers can begin to prepare children to become eager readers by using a few simple strategies starting as early as birth.

The *Worcester Public Schools*, in collaboration with *Worcester Area Volunteers ~ RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)*, distributes a new, reusable bag, full of a wealth of information to assist a new mom with the important task of helping her child acquire the pre-reading skills necessary for a successful start to school.

Bags are delivered to 1,500 new moms at *UMASS Memorial Hospital* and 500 new moms at *St. Vincent's Hospital* annually! (*Projected yearly distribution*)



Books for Babies Advisory Council



Maureen F. Binienda
Superintendent of Schools

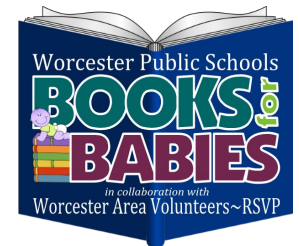
Elizabeth Vecchio
Program Coordinator

Barbara Drapos
Director
Worcester Area Volunteers/RSVP

Bette Carr
RSVP Volunteer Coordinator

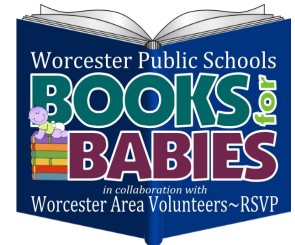
Laurie Kuczka
Worcester Public Schools
Director
Head Start and Early Childhood

Michael Lyons
Worcester Public Schools
Home and Hospital Program



It takes 1000 hours of “laptime”
for young children to have
the readiness skills in place
to learn to read.

~ National Institute for Children’s Health & Development



2020 DATA

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

	NEWBORN BABIES	ENGLISH	SPANISH	VIETNAMESE	CHINESE	PORTUGUESE	ALBANIAN	AFRICAN	OTHER	BOOKS GIVEN TO SIBLINGS	TOTAL BOOKS DISTRIBUTED
1st QUARTER JANUARY - MARCH	229	180	27	2	1	5	0	9	5	9	238
2nd QUARTER APRIL - JUNE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
3rd QUARTER JULY - SEPTEMBER	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4th QUARTER OCTOBER - DECEMBER	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	229	180	27	2	1	5	0	9	5	9	238

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL

	NEWBORN BABIES	ENGLISH	SPANISH	VIETNAMESE	CHINESE	PORTUGUESE	ALBANIAN	AFRICAN	OTHER	BOOKS GIVEN TO SIBLINGS	TOTAL BOOKS DISTRIBUTED
1st QUARTER JANUARY - MARCH	46	39	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	6	52
2nd QUARTER APRIL - JUNE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
3rd QUARTER JULY - SEPTEMBER	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4th QUARTER OCTOBER - DECEMBER	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	46	39	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	6	52

275 newborns – and – 15 siblings = 290 books distributed to new moms in 2020

** Hospitals and schools went into lockdown March 2020 because of COVID-19 halting the Worcester Public Schools Books for Babies Program.*