

My First Books

www.elcbigbend.org



The Power of Words

During the first years of life, it is critical to surround children with positive language to help them make sense of the world around them. Reading books to young children is one of the most effective ways to support children's early literacy and language development.

The "My First Books" Program

The Early Learning Coalition (ELC) supports families as they help their child develop early literacy skills by providing them with quality children's book and family literacy education.



Through the "My First Books" program a new or gently used children's book is given to each family who visits one of our five ELC Service Centers. During that visit, ELC Staff members help parents identify various ways they can support their child's literacy development at home.

What you can do to help

The success of the "My First Books" program is dependent on community support. Every year from November—February the ELC collects books to replenish the word garden libraries. Through partnerships with local schools, businesses, and individuals, the ELC has successfully collected over 13,000 books each year, and distributed over 12,000 books to children and their families.

Ways to Give the Gift of Reading

1. **Donate funds to purchase new quality children's books.** Every child loves a new children's book. The average cost of a new children's book is about \$5 per book. The ELC collects funds to purchase books below cost through partnerships with local and national book distributors.
2. **Become a Partner.** The ELC welcomes civic groups and businesses as partners in supporting the "My First Books" program and will provide recognition to any corporate or group sponsorship by placing stickers with your organization's logo and name on each book. Your organization's name and logo will also be included on ELC publications and website.
3. **Donate new or gently used children's books** appropriate for young children at any one of our locations.



The Early Learning Coalition of the big bend is a 501(c)(3) charitable tax exempt organization. Federal ID #59-3743672

Gadsden Service Center
233 E Jefferson Street
Quincy, FL 32324
850.627.2924

Liberty & Wakulla Service Center
3278 Crawfordville Hwy, Ste. G
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850.617.4586

Leon Service Center
1940 N Monroe Street, Ste. 70
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850.627.2924

Madison Service Center
309 SW Range Avenue
Madison, FL 32340
850.973.2512

Taylor Service Center
318 N Clark Street
Perry, FL 32340
850.584.5679

Help promote literacy, family togetherness and school success!