

BARROW BOOK PARTNERSHIP (BBP) OVERVIEW

WHAT IS IT?

An innovative way to improve early literacy skills in Barrow children ages birth to five by promoting language nutrition. Language-rich adult-child interactions are as critical to a baby's and young child's brain development as healthy food is to physical growth. BBP provides free age-appropriate books for the home and educates families about the wealth of free early literacy books, programs and opportunities offered in local public libraries. *"Giving a 'fish' and teaching to 'fish' at the same time."*

WHO DO WE HELP?

Parents and caregivers of children birth to age five in Barrow County who are clients of the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program at Barrow County's Health Department; Barrow County School's Child Find children; Pre-K lottery applicants; children in foster care; and children at Medlink Winder and Barrow Pediatrics.

WHY?

Each child's learning foundation is established during the first five years of life. A child's brain mass develops from 25% at birth to 90% of their adult size brain by age five. BBP's goal is to provide books and assist families in providing nurturing, language-enriched environments during the crucial first five years of life. This enhances brain development and provides each child with a better learning foundation when entering Kindergarten.

OVER 55% OF BARROW'S CHILDREN ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND HAVE NO BOOKS OR VERY FEW BOOKS AT HOME. WITHOUT AN ENRICHED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AT HOME, CHILDREN OFTEN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN WITH A LIMITED VOCABULARY OF 400-600 WORDS. THE SAME FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN FROM ENRICHED HOME LITERACY ENVIRONMENTS ENTER SCHOOL WITH A 1,400-1,600 WORD VOCABULARY. AT AGE FIVE, THIS IS A HUGE GAP TO OVERCOME. ACCESS TO AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS IS ESSENTIAL, AND THE LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY PROMOTES READING FOR A LIFETIME!

WHO ARE WE?

- ◇ Barrow Community Foundation, Inc., (501(c)3)
- ◇ Barrow County School System
- ◇ Barrow County Health Department
- ◇ Piedmont Regional Library System's Winder, Auburn, and Statham Libraries
- ◇ Barrow Family Connection
- ◇ Adult Literacy Barrow
- ◇ Barrow County Department of Family & Children's Services
- ◇ Winder Thrift Store & Clothes Closet Book Room
- ◇ Barrow Pediatrics
- ◇ Medlink Winder

TELL ME MORE...

The Partnership began in January 2016 by serving families attending WIC nutrition classes at the Health Department. WIC has seven classes each Monday. WIC participants are required to attend quarterly nutrition classes, and attendance at the seven classes each Monday can reach over one hundred. For this first group, BBP provided a quarterly book to each child. Also, a "Book Nook" or bookshelf of donated books was established, and is replenished as needed. Book Nooks promote reading during waiting times, and children may take books home, too. During WIC classes, library staff perform story-times and share about library programs, while also signing families up for library cards. School staff and other BBP volunteers provide role modeling and emphasize the importance of reading and talking at home. Along with library information, all Pre-K lottery applicants receive a new book; Barrow Child Find children receive three books per year; and children in foster care receive four books per year. One-year-old children at Barrow Pediatrics and Medlink Winder are part of the Birthday Book Program where they are given a new, age-appropriate book and local library information by healthcare providers. Target populations will be expanded and added as funding and volunteer support allows.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Contact

Ellen Petree at ellen.petree@barrow.k12.ga.us or 770-867-4527, ext. 100122;

or Beth McIntyre at bmcintyre@priib.org.

See [FB.com/BarrowBookPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/BarrowBookPartnership) for more information.

