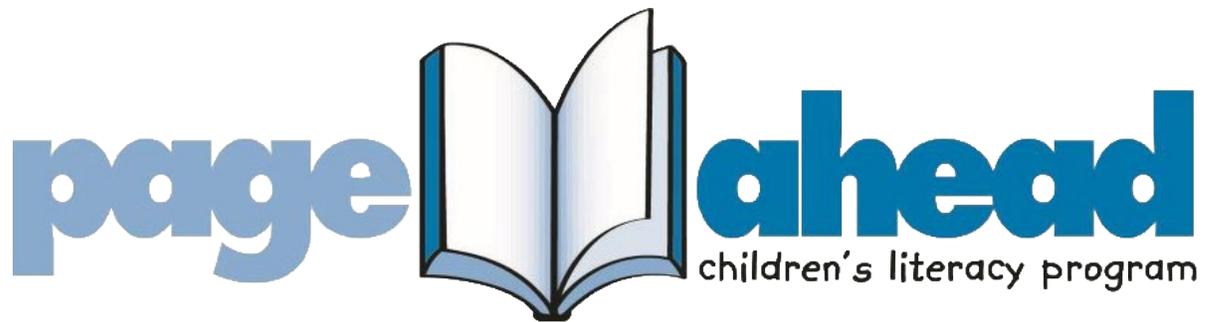


HOST A BOOK DRIVE FOR



Give kids in need the chance to read!

[www.pageahead.org](http://www.pageahead.org)

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## About Page Ahead

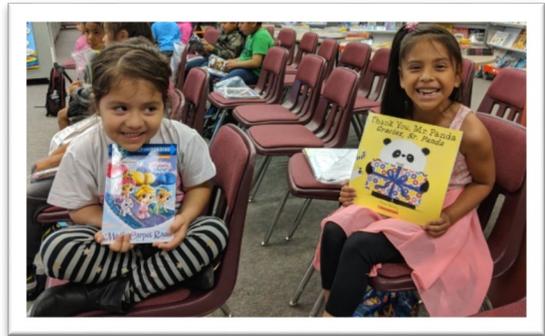
Guided by the fact that literacy is essential to lifelong success, Page Ahead provides new books and develops reading activities that empower at-risk children.

*I didn't like reading but now I do all because of you. Now I LOVE to read! I practice a lot I tell you, alot, alot, alot I tell you. A LOT.*

*–Ayanna, student*

Page Ahead is the leading provider of children's books and literacy services in Washington State. Our vision is for all children to grow to lead literate and successful lives.

Page Ahead partners with elementary schools, early learning centers, and other agencies across Washington to create home libraries for children and families and provide professional development to early learning educators on current literacy research and strategies. Since 1990, Page Ahead has given more than three million new books to more than 850,000 children.



## Page Ahead Programs

### Book Up Summer

K–2 students at majority low-income schools receive twelve free brand-new books of their choice at the end of the school year for three years in a row for summer reading, minimizing or eliminating the “summer reading slump” and helping them return to school in the fall ready to learn.

### Story Leaders

Teachers learn specific early reading techniques to help students actively participate in reading, which builds the students' confidence, vocabulary, and early reading skills.

### Story Time

Volunteers bring reading fun and inspiration to preschool and kindergarten children in the Puget Sound area and Spokane.



## How a Book Drive Helps

Thanks to discounts from Scholastic, Page Ahead is able to purchase books below retail price (about \$3/book) for our summer reading book fair program, Book Up Summer. However, we rely on donated **(new, non-holiday, non-religious) books** for the more than 7,600 titles we provide to children across Washington through other our programs every year. **That's where you come in!**

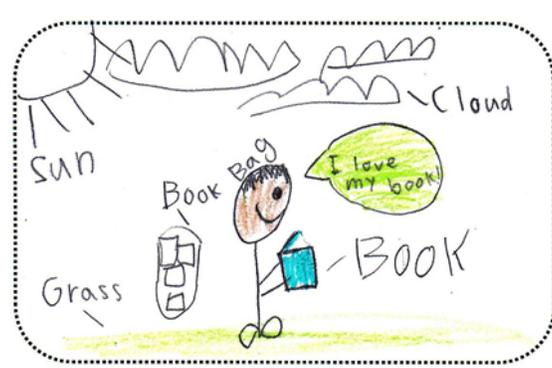
### Books donated to Page Ahead during book drives end up on kids' shelves across the state.

Through our own programming and our partnerships with other organizations, Page Ahead works to close the opportunity gap for children from families experiencing low income. Research has shown time and again that the more access a child has to books and printed materials, the better prepared they are to succeed in school and in life, even in the face of other systemic inequities.

Page Ahead holds regular reading events in Washington public schools, in which volunteers help children select books from our stock; they then read them together and the children get to take the books home to keep. We also partner with community organizations to provide books and make it easier for them to more effectively serve their clientele and students. Some examples include:

- [Foundation for Academic Endeavors summer school programming in Mount Vernon](#)
- [Kent Valley Early Learning Center](#)
- The Moses Lake Community Health Center's [Maternity Support Services](#) program
- The [Parent Education Lab for infants and toddlers](#) at South Lake High School in Seattle

Are you a bookstore or other retailer who sells books? Contact us directly at [info@pageahead.org](mailto:info@pageahead.org) if you'd like to do a book drive—we can make it easy for you!



# The ABCs of a Successful Book Drive

## Assemble the basics

*Who will participate?*

Colleagues, classmates, fellow members, clients, the public, etc. Gather your email contacts, social media lists, and list of locations.

*What are your drive goals?*

Make it catchy: 100 books for 100 employees, or one book for every child at a school, for example.

*When will the drive start and end?*

We recommend two weeks for smaller groups (single-building businesses, community groups, and so on) and one month for bigger drives (multi-building businesses or corporations with multiple locations).

*Where will donations be collected and stored?*

Collect books in a well-marked container, such as a sturdy tub with a big sign, in a location with lots of foot traffic (lobby, cafeteria, lounge, etc.) and store them in a secure location. Consider making a color display of books from the wish list, and **please be clear that you are only collecting new books.**

**“Special thanks to you for helping us build a library of our own in our own home. We love to read and enjoy the new books you gave us.”**

**Amy D., parent**

*How will you encourage donations?*

Consider competitions/challenges, themes, or incentives that excite participants.

## Begin with a bang

Kick off your book drive at a meeting or community event. We will gladly provide materials to help promote your drive, and if you’d like someone from Page Ahead to speak at your event, please don’t hesitate to reach out to [info@pageahead.org](mailto:info@pageahead.org)!

## Communicate your progress and success

Timely updates via email or social media will keep your participants excited about the drive and the difference their books will make for kids across Washington. Highlight special contributions or milestones (e.g. the fiftieth book in a drive with a goal of 100 books).

## Other tips for success

**Make it even easier:** In all your communications, include the links to Page Ahead's online retailer book wish lists ([Amazon](#) | [Indiebound](#))—online purchases count!

**Match it to double the power:** Ask your company to match employees' or clients' donations with a monetary gift—even a 50 percent match makes a big difference!

**Provide leadership opportunities:** Students can do book drives at their schools or for service learning credit, junior employees can take the reins, etc. Make it a group effort!

**Start from a list:** Looking for book ideas to donate? [We keep a list of titles we like to have on hand on our website](#). If you pick from that, you can't go wrong!

## Thank you!

Page Ahead is a nonprofit with a small staff, limited resources, and a big mission. We are so grateful to you for partnering with us in this work. If there's anything we can do to help out during your drive, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [info@pageahead.org](mailto:info@pageahead.org) or (206) 461-0123. **Good luck!**

