

Literacy program for low-income children expands to Contra Costa County

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Starting in January, the nonprofit program Raising a Reader will bring books to low-income children in Contra Costa County to promote early literacy.

The program currently provides 11,000 low-income toddlers and preschoolers in San Francisco and Alameda counties with a rotating supply of books to read with their parents in child care centers and kindergarten classes.

Reading aloud is one of the most effective ways to prepare children for kindergarten, yet research shows 60 percent of low-income families don't have books at home, according to a news release.

First 5 Contra Costa provided \$225,000 to help pay for the expansion, along with contributions from other funders. More information about the program is available by visiting <http://rarbayarea.org>.