



“This is a wonderful program that gets kids interested in reading. We love getting new books and read them over and over.”

- Parent of a
Wisconsin Bookworms Participant



Wisconsin Bookworms: Building children’s literacy since 1998

We are pleased to announce that with the 2023-2024 school year, Wisconsin Bookworms will be celebrating its **25th year!** During that time, a total of 960,500 books have been purchased, reaching more than 103,655 preschool children

For America’s low-income families, the biggest obstacle to literacy is the scarcity of books and appropriate reading material for young children.

The Wisconsin Bookworms reading program was developed in an effort to provide free books to children who may not otherwise be able to own them. Wisconsin Bookworms promotes reading by giving pre-school children the experience of having someone read to them. Families are involved through participating in literacy activities that promote additional reading at home.

When Wisconsin Bookworms first started in 1998, a total of 16,500 books were distributed to Wisconsin children through the partnership efforts of UW-Extension Family Living Programs, Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education (WAHCE).

Teachers report that having volunteers share their love of reading and interact with the classroom are key outcomes of the program. The children are excited to receive a free copy of the book to take home and spend hours reading and looking at them with family.

Role of WAHCE in Wisconsin Bookworms

The Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (WAHCE), a nonprofit educational organization with members in 47 Wisconsin counties, plays a unique and vital role in the success of the Wisconsin Bookworms program.

WAHCE’s goals include providing education to strengthen families and communities and building coalitions with organizations and agencies that have similar aims. Local WAHCE groups raise funds to cover the cost of books for the Wisconsin Bookworms program in their counties.

Wisconsin Bookworms receives educational support from the UW Madison-Division of Extension for development of activity sheets in both English and Spanish that extend the books’ educational value.

The three most important components of the Wisconsin Bookworms program are:

- ♦ **Having volunteers read the book in the classroom**
- ♦ **Doing an activity that pertains to the story, and**
- ♦ **Providing free books to the children to take home to create their own in-home library.**

*Early Literacy Program Helping
Wisconsin’s Preschool Children Develop
a Life-Long Love of Reading*