



# Books in the Home: Fact Sheet

*“Finding the right book at the right time can light an emotional spark within children that motivates them to read more, understand more, and read joyfully. When that happens, the world opens. Everything becomes possible.”*

—Dick Robinson, Scholastic

Bring Me a Book is committed to making sure that all children, wherever they call home—low income housing or transitional housing for the homeless—have books in their homes. These research facts anchor our commitment to uniting all children with books:

- Conducted over 20 years, Evans, Kelley, Sikorac, and Treimand (2010) surveyed more than 70,000 people across 27 countries and found that children raised in homes with more than 500 books spent three years longer in school than children whose parents had only a few books.
- Even a child who hails from a home with only 25 books will, on average, complete two more years of school than would a child from a home without any books at all (Evans et al., 2010).
- Research from the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (Mullis & Martin, 2007) shows a similar impact of books in the home. Surveying 215,000 students across 40 countries, PIRLS 2006 was one of the largest international assessments of reading literacy ever undertaken. Students thrived as readers when they were from homes where their parents enjoyed reading and read frequently, books were in abundance, and students were engaged in literacy activities—from alphabet blocks to word games—from an early age (Mullis & Martin, 2007, p. 2).
- The only behavior measure that correlates significantly with reading scores is the number of books in the home. An analysis of a national data set of nearly 100,000 United States school children found that access to printed materials—and not poverty—is the “critical variable affecting reading acquisition” (McQuillan, 1998).

Asking children to “show me your library” is powerful. Children think of themselves as readers when they have books in their homes—changing the literacy dynamic (Constantino, 2014).

## References

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