

Criteria to Participate in Little Libraries Program

- Need to have a weekly program offsite for at least five weeks in a row: i.e. every Thursday we will be at Sunrise Park during the summer lunch program from June 12 – July 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Opportunities for offsite programs could be: a park, a summer school lunch program, a community center, a Farmer’s Market, other.
- Need to take a bin of “Read and Return” books out each week. These are often a combination of gently used and new books supplied by ICfL and local sources. ICfL can also supply the bin and Read and Return stickers.
- Need to track the number of books distributed (generally one per child) by counting how many books you start with and then how many books are left in the bin when you return to the library to restock. Suggestion: have a basket for returned books that can be counted after the visit.
- Need to survey kids and parents during the last two weeks of your program. ICfL provides the survey. It is helpful to have a volunteer ask the questions and write down the answers. Kids who attend the last two weeks of the outreach programs get to select a book to keep.
- Need to return the surveys to ICfL and do a quick report on your experience with the project by September 15.



**LITTLE
LIBRARIES**

Optional – but highly encouraged!

Participants are strongly encouraged to use the [Summer Reading Outreach Guidebook](#) to plan weekly story reading (and/or booktalk) and a simple, but fun learning enrichment activity. ICfL has lots of examples, planning tools, and can provide additional resources to support these efforts. For example, ICfL has had good luck with an “Amazing Animals” theme for one week. We read a fun animal book, and the activity is encouraging children to observe animals this week and record their observations in a blank notebook we provide plus an animal book they can keep that week. If you choose to use that theme during that week, ICfL could provide an animal book to read aloud, and kits with journals and a book for the kids to keep that week. Participants are strongly encouraged to promote the outreach efforts and have good signage that shows it’s a library program, staffed by paid or volunteer library staff and that families can expect to see you there according to your pre-planned schedule.

To apply for Little Libraries, see the [Reaching Underserved Children application](#).

Contact [Stephanie Bailey White](#) for more information.