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## What are book boxes?

Book Boxes are a popular service for Tweens & Teens and now Babies.

Readers ages 9-18 can sign up for a one-month "subscription" to receive two library books personally selected by a librarian -- plus fun extras to keep! Readers are invited to fill out a Reader's Advisory Survey to help us pick out books that they would enjoy.

Babies receive two board books selected by a Librarian, pre-reader information, and one item to keep. Why we wanted to start a Book Box program

- A love of Reader's Advisory
- To reach Teens too shy to ask for Book Recs
- To entice reluctant readers
- To afford a better sense of privacy
- To allow those who can't afford Paid Subscriptions an opportunity to have a Book Box Experience
- To give Librarians a better sense of what books are popular with their tween/teen patrons
- To highlight when there are holes in the collection



# How our Book Box Program started



- Library Book Box programs start popping up on Teen Services
   Underground
- Create budget and present to Friends. Budget is approved
- Launch first Teen and Tween Book Box sign up on March 1st, 2020
- Teen/Tween Book Box program goes on hold until Fall of 2021
- Relaunches in September and is a success
- Baby Boxes come onto the scene March 2023



## Teen & Tween Book Boxes



Have you gotten a Book Box from us before? If yes, what did you think? (Required)	
	-6
Do you like graphic novels? (Required)	
What kind of books would you like to read this month? (Required)	
Please pick only up to 3 genres	
Fantasy	
Science Fiction	
Realistic Fiction	
Historical Fiction	
Horror	
Suspense/thriller/Mysteries	
Light romance (rom coms, meet cutes, etc)	
Drama Drama	
Funny Books	
Supernatural (ghosts/demons/witches)	
Dystopian	
Gentle Reads (little to no/swearing/violence/sex/drugs etc)	
LGBTQ+ (Please note if you want to be more specific in the 'anything else we should know section)	
Tear Jerkers (Make me cry)	
Books that tackle tough topics/social issues	
Surprise me, I read anything	
What are some of your favorite books? What did you like about them? * Please list at least 3 books (	Required)
Please give more than one example of books that you liked. The more information you provide the better able	e our Librarians are able to choose books
or you.	
	1.
Are there any books you haven't liked and why? (Required)	
	*
Anything else we should know? (Required)	
This is where you can let us know any other of your reading quirks. If you don't like romance or maybe violence	e let us know If you have a specific type
of fantasy novel you like etc.	type

- Sign Up Questions
  - Contact info for child/parent
  - Library Card #
  - Requested Genres
  - Age/grade
  - Food Allergies
  - Favorite books
  - Books you didn't like
  - Anything else
- Book Selection
  - NoveList
  - Read-alike Lists
  - Personal knowledge
  - Browsing
- Tracking Spread Sheets

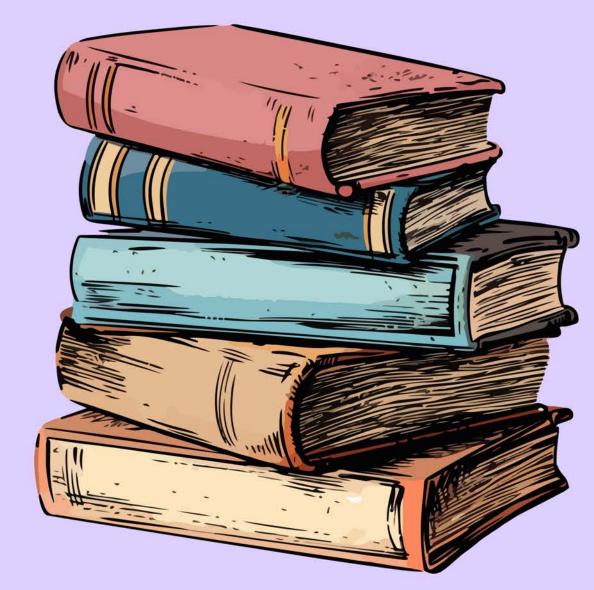
# Promotion

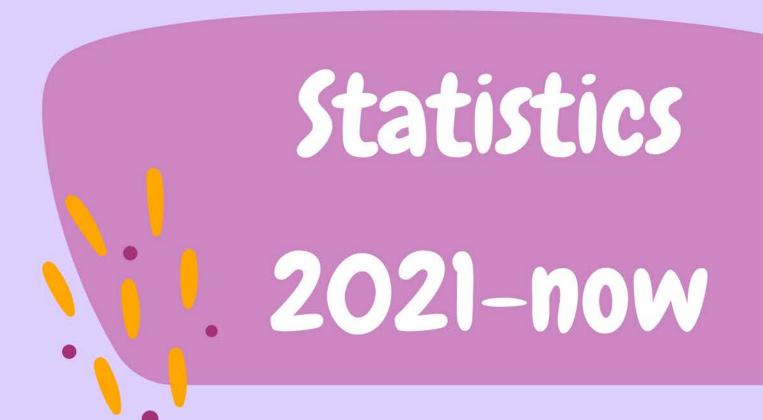
- Facebook/Instagram
- Flyers
- Word of Mouth/Handselling
- Posters with QR Codes
- Shelftalkers in Teen Area



# Changes

- Upgraded boxes
- Started charging replacement fee for unreturned boxes
- Reduced Tween slots (from 10 to 8)
- Nixed the "one book or two" option
- Refined the list of genre choices
- Changed Graphic Novel choices







### NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL SIGN UP

Teen: 61 Total:

Tween: 87 147

#### NUMBER OF REPEATED READERS

Teen: 30 Total:

Tween: 39 69

### TOTAL NUMBER OF BOXES DISTRIBUTED

Teen:147 Total:

Tween: 163 310



# Baby Book Box

#### Are you focusing on any developmental or behavioral themes?

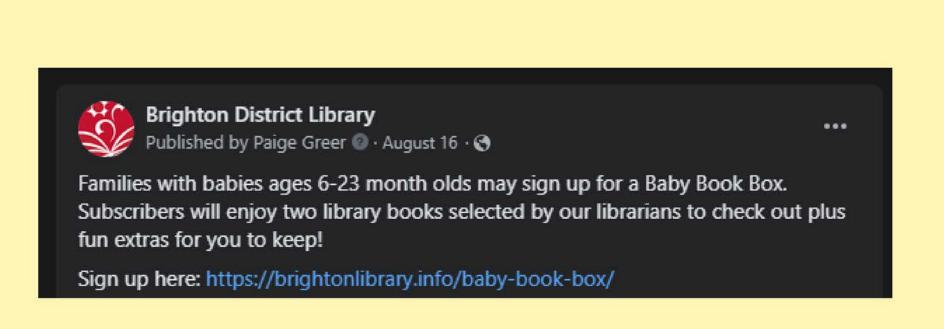
- ☐ No Specific Topic
- ☐ Potty Training
- ☐ Hitting/Biting
- New Siblings
- ☐ Sibling Rivalry
- ☐ Grief
- Counting
- □ Colors
- □ Shapes
- □ Alphabet
- Other (please provide details in last question on form)

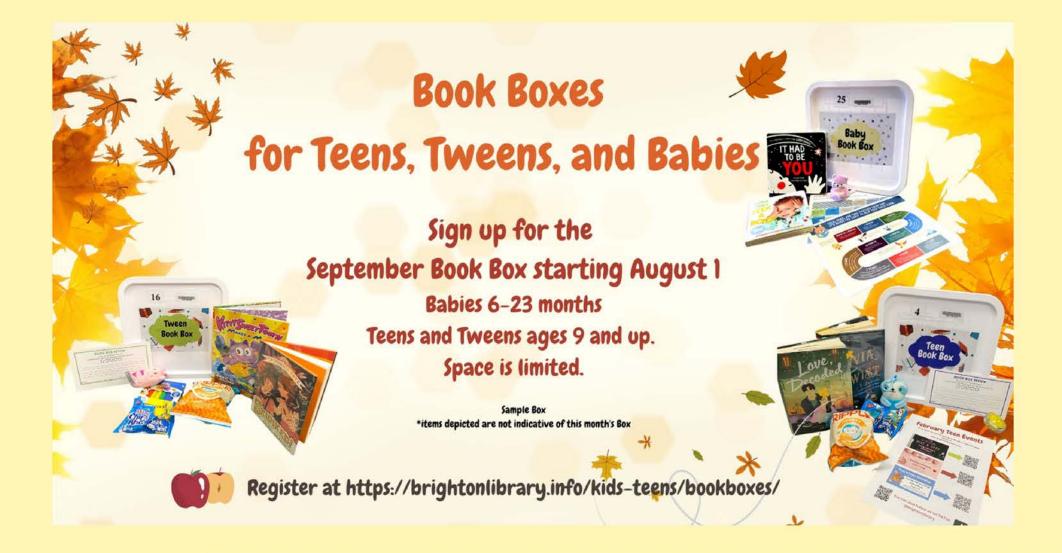


- Sign up Questions
  - Contact info for caregiver
  - Library Card #
  - Age
  - Developmental/Behavioral Themes
  - Favorite books to read together
  - O Bonus Book
  - Anything else
- Book Selection
  - Personal Knowledge
  - Browsing
  - The Internet
- Changes
  - Added Bonus Book for Siblings
  - Changed Age range from 0-23 months to 0-35 months
- Tracking Spreadsheet

# Promotion

- Facebook/Instagram
- Flyers
- Word of Mouth
- Story Time Slides











NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL SIGN UP
TOTAL:
68

NUMBER OF REPEATED READERS
TOTAL:
20

NUMBER OF BONUS READERS TOTAL:

6

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOXES
DISTRIBUTED

TOTAL:



# Getting Started with Book Boxes Things to include in your budget

- Price of boxes
  - O How many do you want to go out each month?
  - Ourability vs cost?
  - Quantity (get extras)
  - Budget for replacements
- Labels for your boxes
  - Instructions for boxes
  - Review cards
  - Branding

- Prizes/snacks
  - How many items are you putting in each box, each month.
  - Options if you run into food allergies
- Staff commitment/time



Your first year will most likely cost the most since you will need to invest in the boxes and prep work.

## Getting Started with Book Boxes

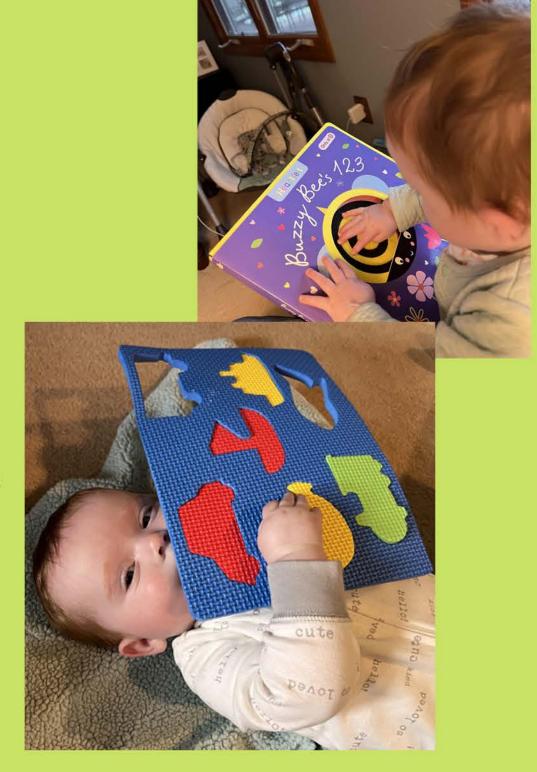
## Where to find items

- Donations from local business
  - local bookshops may receive promo materials they'll donate
  - local restaurants may give coupons for
    - free items or discounts
- Target "dollar" section
- Dollar Stores
- Amazon (search items in bulk)
- Library Swag
- Party section of stores



- Keychains
- Magnetic Bookmarks
- slap bracelets
- Water bottle stickers
- sensory toys
- Bath Toys
- Board books
- mini-slime
- wind up toys
- Holiday themed socks
- DIY kits
- Bouncy Balls
- Candy/chips/cookies
- Baby Puzzles





We also add flyers for Library and Events and services

# Want to do Book Boxes @ your Library?

## WHAT TO CONSIDER:

- How to handle sign up
- What to use for your forms
- Length of subscription (monthly, three-month?)
- How many boxes to do
- Book Box storage
- How to work with your ILS to keep the books a surprise
- How to distribute boxes
- How to keep track of what books you've given readers



## What to expect if your program is TOO Successful

- Demand for more age ranges
- Filling up too quickly
- Running out of recommendations for repeat users
- Box hoarders
- Making exceptions





# auestions?

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https://brightonlibrary.info/kids-teens/bookboxes/