

For immediate release: August 8, 2017

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Announcing Books for Babies: An Early Literacy Initiative from Spokane Public Library

Starting in mid-August, all newborns born at area hospitals (Deaconess, Sacred Heart, and the Spokane Midwives Birthing Center) will go home with their very own Spokane Public Library card and a free book if they live in Spokane city limits.

The Books for Babies gift bags, provided by Spokane Public Library through generous support of the Friends of Spokane Public Library, will include a free board book, book marks, a custom kids' library card and early literacy tips. The Books for Babies kit also includes instructions for parents to get their own library card to access digital resources from home – like something to read, watch or listen to during late nights caring for a new baby.

“Many parents don’t realize that early literacy can and should start at day one,” says Spokane Public Library Learning & Literacy Coordinator, Sally Chilson. “Babies need to hear words everyday,” she says, citing American Library Association research “We like to say everyday you should read to your baby, sing to your baby, and play with your baby. Talk to them every chance you get, even though they can’t yet answer back.”

The idea for this program came through the goal of getting a library card into every household in Spokane. “We want library lovers in every household and what better way to reach those citizens than on the day they are born,” says Andrew Chanse, library Executive Director.

The Spokane Public Library Books for Babies team will be assembling the kits on August 11 at the Downtown Library and distributing them to the area hospitals on August 14.

Newborns will receive kits while supplies last.

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Spokane Public Library

906 West Main Avenue • Spokane, WA 99201
509.444.5300 • www.SpokaneLibrary.org

About Spokane Public Library

Spokane Public Library delivers high quality education for all – opportunities to read, to learn, and discover the world. In accomplishing our mission, we keep in mind certain values that contribute to creating an open and welcoming place where all people can use the services of the library freely. For general information about the library, please visit our website at www.SpokaneLibrary.org.

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