

Harnessing the power of partnerships

‘Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five’



Book Dash: introduction



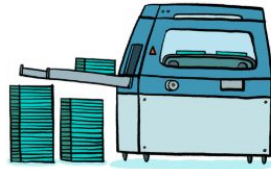
Our model



7 Book distribution



6 Funding partners



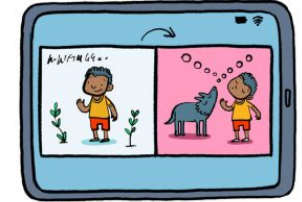
5 Book printing



1 Book creation



2 Book Dash team



3 Free online library



4 South African translations

Distribution Partners

new distribution partner applications 478

new distribution partners receiving books 292

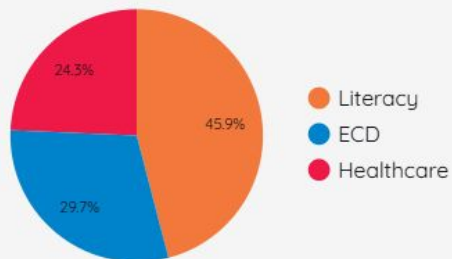
Total distribution partners receiving books 292

distribution partners (cumulative to date) 292

currently active distribution partners 160

multiyear partners (cumulative to date) 172

% of distribution partners receiving books by sector



'Considered distribution'

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyZlyeivKJc7Blq7X6HpaSr9P0aGNNxKqXSx3XGB2-GbOuuq/viewform>



Impact of abundant book distribution

The role of books

Children with more books at home had better: ☆



overall ELOM performance



executive functioning



early numeracy

even after controlling for other factors.*

*The evaluation used regression analysis to examine how owning more books contributed to learning gains.

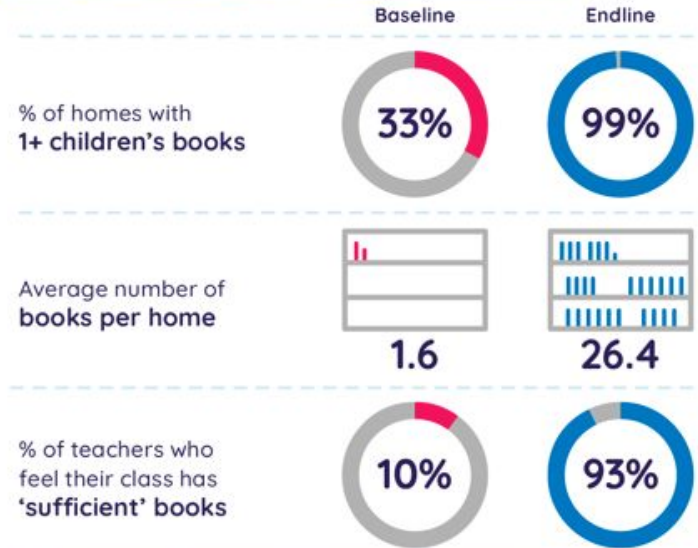
This finding does not indicate that book ownership was more effective than other parts of the model, as it was not possible to run regression analysis for all components of the model.



Books extended the project's reach:

78% of children who received books shared them with siblings or neighbours.

Book-poor environments transformed to book-rich spaces.



Classroom practice improved, and changes were sustained.



By year-end, teachers read storybooks more often, and were more confident doing so.



52% of teachers increased book reading further after the project ended.

Source: Social Impact Insights Africa, 2024: Closing the ECD gap: the impacts of a multi-partner approach.

<https://bookdash.org/ujzani-sifunde/>

Emergent literacy in action

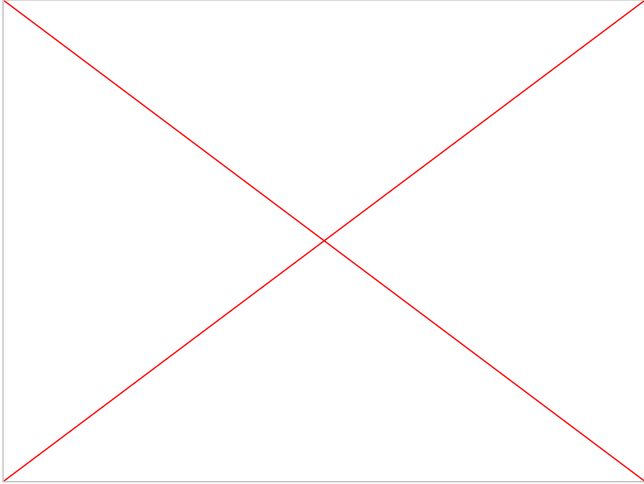


Photo and video: Lulamaphiko, Kwa-Zulu Natal



What our partners say

"Initially we questioned giving books away. However, an open mind, expert opinion, and first-hand experience soon convinced us of the enormous value of giving books 'for-keeps'. The benefits are enormous. Reading and sharing stories helps build strong bonds, which allows for open conversations; stimulates thinking and language; and creates opportunities to discuss feelings and outcomes. Books are prized possessions. Valued and loved. Their very own."

**Thobani Ndlovu, Project Coordinator,
Khanyisela Projects, Royal Drakensberg**



What our partners say



"The Book Dash books that our children receive are breaking the cycle of hierarchy (believing that children's opinions are not valuable because they are young) and introducing a culture of learning and creating relationships between children and the guardians. Guardians are able to understand the world through their children's perspective and children are also able to do the same."

Zandile Mbathu, Home Visitor at Thanda Projects, KwaZulu Natal.

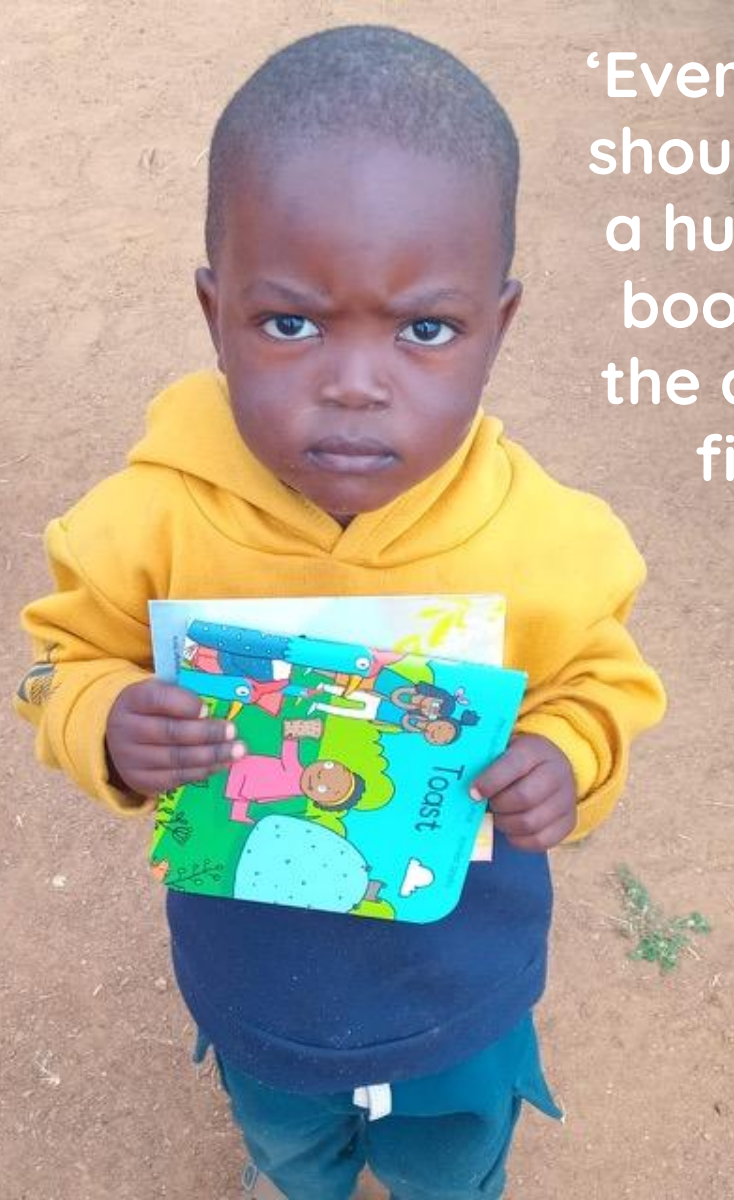
What our partners say

“Many of the children who received Book Dash books were excited to take them home. In several of the organisations we work with, parents and guardians shared that the books have become part of their daily routine, with children asking for specific titles at bedtime. One parent mentioned that her child “sleeps with the book under his pillow” because he loves the story so much. Another caregiver from a community centre said her granddaughter now “pretends to read to her dolls” using the book.

For many families, these books are the only ones in the home, and they’ve expressed deep appreciation for having a resource that helps them bond with their children while supporting their learning. Facilitators have reported that children return to school more confident and enthusiastic about reading after spending time with the books at home.”

Molebogeng Ntladi, Programme Manager, World Speech Day South Africa





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