



Sheltering Arms

OPERATION StoryBOOK

Operation StoryBook Volunteer Information

Read-a-Thon: Thursday, September 15th and Friday, September 16th, 2011

Volunteer Information

Well-told stories have power for young children. Stories develop a love and understanding of language that is the precursor to strong reading skills. Stories build connections between the teller and the listener. Stories instill life lessons about character and the choices we make. Stories not only take us to other cultures and other lands; they also provide common language and experiences that unite us with our own community. As a volunteer in the Operation StoryBook Read-A-Thon, you can bring the whole world to a child by sharing your love of reading. Considering that 90% of a child's brain develops in the earliest years of life, you can have a lifelong impact on a child and on their contribution to our community.

What will I do?

Each volunteer will spend 30 minutes to an hour sharing books and stories in a Sheltering Arms classroom, under the supervision of professional Sheltering Arms teachers. We serve infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, so whenever possible we will try to place you with the age group you most enjoy.

There are many different ways you can choose to participate:

Be A Reader: To make sure you have a successful experience, we take our cue from the children.

Children can cycle through sleepy, energetic, and attentive many times during the day, so you may be asked to read to an entire classroom during story time, or you may read to individuals or small groups of children during their learning center time. You might even be asked to read on the playground! You may bring age-appropriate books yourself to share, or you may use books that we have on hand in each classroom's library.

Show and Tell: This year's Operation StoryBook featured title is "The Drum." It is an Indian folk tale that teaches children about sharing and reaching your dreams. Perhaps you can speak one of India's native languages or have pictures or stories from a trip to India.

Fun, Games, and Drama: Exercise your creativity to think of an entertaining, playful way for children to explore a story. Schedule your Scout Troop to do a puppet show. Narrate a story and have the children act it out. Sing your story or play an instrument and let children retell a story through dance. Bring an age-appropriate art or craft activity related to a favorite children's story, or volunteer to assist children in a literacy-related project we provide.

Use costumes, props, and storytelling skills to bring stories alive for children.

Flexibility is a virtue when working with young children. If you complete the activity you've prepared and still have time left, we welcome you to join in with the children in their daily activities, visiting with them in their learning centers, playing together outside, or helping them at meal and snack times.

When will I be needed?

You may choose a 30 minute or 60 minute time slot between the hours of 9:00AM-11:30 AM and 2:30-5:00 PM. If your first time choice has already been filled, we will contact you about optional times. Please report 15 minutes before your assigned reading time.

Where will I volunteer?

Sheltering Arms has 16 centers in Clayton (Jonesboro), Cobb (Marietta), DeKalb (Chamblee, East Atlanta), Douglas (Douglasville), Fulton (Atlanta, College Park, East Point, Union City, Dunbar), and Gwinnett (Lawrenceville, Norcross) counties. Each center will hold a Read-A-Thon. Employees from sponsoring companies will be scheduled for the center supported by their employer. VIP Readers and others who wish to participate will be scheduled for the center most convenient to them.

What else do I need to know?

Dress comfortably, or plan to wear the Read-A-Thon t-shirt you will receive as a volunteer. Review the tips for guest readers below to help you prepare. If you'd like suggestions of books to bring, visit the Operation StoryBook page on our website at www.shelteringarmsforkids.com. This will be the friendliest audience you'll ever have for a presentation, so relax and have fun!

How do I sign up?

If you are volunteering through your company, contact the coordinator at your office. If you are volunteering as an individual, or aren't sure who to contact at your company, you can sign up online by clicking the Operation StoryBook logo at www.shelteringarmsforkids.com. For more information, contact Jason (404-523-9865 / jlowery@shelteringarmsforkids.com).

- Board books
- Books with simple, clear pictures with or without words
- ABC books with pictures of common objects
- Poems, songs and rhymes
- Books that let children explore the five senses, with different textures, smells, sizes, shapes, colors, and sounds
- Stories about everyday things and experiences
- Simple stories, lots of action, quick and steady pace
- Main characters about the same age as the children
- Playful animals, both real and pretend
- Books that show and classify many different objects (cars, animals, tools, etc.)
- Books with rhymes, rhythms, or catchy phrases children can repeat with you