# 1000 Things Before Kindergarten:

# A School Readiness Project

1000 Things Before Kindergarten may sound like a lot, but research demonstrates the value of children participating in school readiness activities with their kindergarten before entering formal schooling. To accomplish just that, the Library of Virginia has collaborated with 17 public libraries across the Commonwealth and the Soho Center to promote school readiness. Additional libraries will be added in the next several years, until all libraries are participating.

1000 Things Before Kindergarten (1KTB4K) is derived from the 1000 *Books* Before Kindergarten effort ([www.1000BooksBeforeKindergarten.org](http://www.1000BooksBeforeKindergarten.org)), which focuses solely on reading. However, 1KTB4K expands the concept to include STEAM and social/emotional behaviors, such as singing songs and nursery rhymes; playing peekaboo; dancing to music; playing with blocks; and counting aloud. Books and activities may be repeated as many times as interests the child, since repetition is a valuable learning tool.

Participants receive informational folders in which the caregiver can store their reading logs and other library information; log sheets; and earn a free book to keep at every 100 books read or activities completed. The folder lists suggested activities and refers caregivers to sites [www.DaybyDayVA.org](www.DaybyDayVA.org%20) , a day by day web calendar of suggested activities and books, and [www.kidsliteracy.org](http://www.kidsliteracy.org) , a similar site pupblished by our partner, the Soho Center.

The book prizes were donated by the Soho Center ([www.child2000.org](http://www.child2000.org/)). The art in this project was created by Virginia Commonwealth University digital arts students, featuring the animal residents of Virginia, from box turtles to cardinals to turkeys. All associated costs are funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Library of Virginia.