

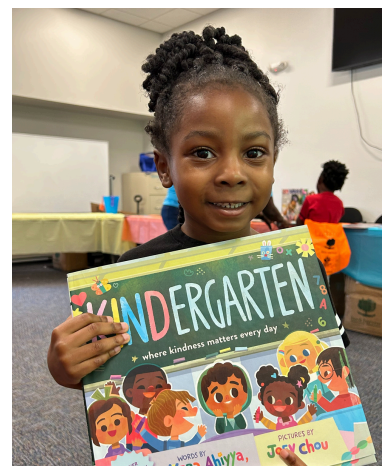
BRIDGE TO SCHOOL



Supporting Every Family in Ensuring Their Child Starts School Strong

WHAT IS BRIDGE TO SCHOOL?

Book Harvest's **Bridge to School** program supports families in building a sturdy bridge between the early years and the early grades. Bridge to School partners with parents and caregivers to provide individualized navigation through the often confusing and complicated application and selection process for high-quality Pre-K and kindergarten. By removing roadblocks that families often face in placing their children in the school settings they feel best fit their child's needs and by accompanying them as they adjust to the early grades, **Bridge to School** ensures that children start their school journey strong, and stay strong once there.



WHY BRIDGE TO SCHOOL MATTERS



- Renowned studies -- Perry Preschool Project and Abecedarian Study -- confirm that high-quality early care and education have longterm and profound benefits for participating children. [1]
- Children from low-income families who attend high-quality preschool have better rates of academic achievement, high school graduation, and post-secondary success. [2]
- When parents and families have support during their child's transition to formal education settings, their child is more successful. [3]

HOW BRIDGE TO SCHOOL WORKS

Bridge to School helps remove the roadblocks families often face as their children prepare to enter formal school settings. A literacy coach works individually with families (primarily families enrolled in Book Harvest's Book Babies program) over the course of two years through in-person and/or virtual visits. The coach also organizes information sessions with local programs and schools, provides all-inclusive support with the application/enrollment process, and hosts family advocacy training sessions. In addition, Book Harvest's unique Ready for School Guide is a resource for families and childcare centers working with families.



[1] [2] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5331750/>

[3] Ahtola, A., Silinskas, G., Poikonen, P., Kontoniemi, M., Niemi, P., & Nurmi, J. (2011). Transition to formal schooling: Do transition practices matter for academic performance? *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 26, 295-302.

ABOUT BOOK HARVEST

Book Harvest's mission is to provide books every child, support for every parent, and literacy for every community. Since 2011, Book Harvest has provided more than two million books to families in North Carolina and beyond, ensuring that children grow up with abundant home libraries and parents have the tools and power to ignite and strengthen their children's literacy. With programs that are grounded in evidence, Book Harvest believes that literacy starts at birth, in the home, powered by parents, and nourished with books. For more information, contact Gisela Mora Hernandez at gisela@bookharvest.org.