

GUIDELINES FOR BOOK DONATIONS

The Children's Mission of St. Paul and St. James has a growing library of children's books, and also provides books for children to take home and keep. We will accept donations of used books in good condition as well as new books and cash donations. Our primary focus is on high-quality imaginative literature for children, such as folk tales, fairy tales, picture books and children's novels. Books about family life, nature, science, history and biography are also welcome. It can be especially helpful to have several copies of the same title.

WE HAVE NO USE FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF BOOKS:

- Books that feature movie or TV characters, promote brand-name toys, promote violence and aggression, or display any commercial or promotional agenda
- Used books in poor condition; obviously outdated books; obvious cast-offs
- Textbooks; therapeutic books; books such as Berenstain Bears that "preach" to children
- Mass-market series such as Babysitters' Club, Boxcar Children, Goosebumps, Nancy Drew, etc.
- Books that insensitively portray an entirely affluent, suburban, or all-white world.

Most of the children who participate in our programs are from 3 to 10 years old. Our greatest need is therefore for picture books and early readers. The following list of authors and illustrators may serve as a starting point:

Verna Aardema	Nikki Grimes	Mercer Mayer	Cynthia Rylant
Frank Asch	Donald Hall	Sam McBratney	Maurice Sendak
Molly Bang	Helme Heine	Robert McCloskey	Dr. Seuss
Margaret Wise Brown	Russell Hoban	Emily Arnold McCully	Esphyr Slobodkina
Eric Carle	Margaret Hodges	Gerald McDermott	Peter Spier
Joanna Cole	Shirley Hughes	Else Holmelund Minarik	William Steig
Donald Crews	Ezra Jack Keats	Laura Joffe Numeroff	John Steptoe
Jean De Brunhoff	Robert Kraus	Jan Ormerod	James Stevenson
Tomie De Paola	Leo Lionni	Katharine Paterson	Bernard Waber
Lois Ehlert	Arnold Lobel	Patricia Polacco	Vera B. Williams
Don Freeman	James Marshall	A. and M. Provensen	Jane Yolen
Eloise Greenfield	Marianna Mayer	Eve Rice	Charlotte Zolotow

For further ideas, check on-line lists such as <http://www.nea.org/readacross/resources/booklists.html> and <http://www.dalycitylibrary.org/readkids.htm>.

We also particularly welcome books in Spanish for toddlers and preschoolers.

Also welcome would "chapter books" for older children (Newbery-award winners are always a safe choice if you are not knowledgeable about children's literature), and good books on science and history, such as the Dorling Kindersley books and the Magic Schoolbus series. We are hoping to surround our kids with books that invite repeated re-readings, that offer meaning and hope in language they can understand, that help them to think of the world in new ways ... and that have no commercial agenda and do not represent the world as all-white, all-prosperous, and all-suburban.

Thank you so much for your interest in helping us enrich the lives of our kids. Please feel free to call 203 - 785-8248 if you need any further clarification.