

## **BookWagon Information**

First Regional Library (FRL) believes that reading to young children early and often is the single most important thing that libraries, teachers and parents can do to encourage lifelong learning. The Words on Wheels BookWagon is an extension of local public libraries and offers a unique, free early literacy experience for preschool-age children in Desoto, Lafayette, Panola, Tate and Tunica counties.

A visit by the Words on Wheels BookWagon starts with the librarian inviting children and their teachers and/or caregivers on-board for a fun storytime or program featuring literacy-focused activities. Afterward, teachers and caregivers may check out age-appropriate books and other library materials as well as resources for parenting and teaching young children.

### **Mission Statement**

The Words on Wheels BookWagon provides early literacy programming to preschool-aged children, with a focus on expanding the number of children served by FRL. The BookWagon is a critical part of FRL's goal to create young learners by providing interactive services and engaging materials needed to prepare children from birth to five to enter school ready to read, listen and learn.

### **Service Priorities**

While First Regional Library is committed to equitable service for every child in its service area, limited resources may require the BookWagon to decline outreach opportunities. Consistent and regularly scheduled visits to childcare centers are its priority. The BookWagon is available, as resources allow, to visit other organizations, schools and community events serving preschool-aged children and their families for special occasions. Other criteria that will be considered include staff availability, population density, route efficiency and travel time.

The BookWagon's regular service priorities are:

1. Childcare centers not receiving regular service from a branch library in outlying and underserved communities
2. Other childcare centers not receiving regular service from a branch library

Where possible, the BookWagon will consider:

1. Community events serving young children and families where there is limited access to a branch library
2. Special events at branch libraries
3. Community events serving young children and families where there is access to a branch library

### **Partner Requirements**

- Partners and event locations must be within the First Regional Library service area.
- Event locations must have sufficient parking for the 28-foot BookWagon with easy, wide access in and out of the parking area.
- Childcare centers and schools must provide a teacher to be on the BookWagon with each class at all times.
- Partner locations must provide maximum accessibility and safety for participants and BookWagon staff.
- Partner and event locations must have restrooms available for the BookWagon staff.

### **Cancellations**

Cancellations MUST be made by phone to (662) 429-4439 x131 or by email to [mwulff@firstregional.org](mailto:mwulff@firstregional.org) at least 24 hours in advance. If First Regional Library must cancel its BookWagon visit (due to mechanical

issues, extreme weather, illness, etc.), every effort will be made to provide 24 hours notice and either a substitute storytime activity or reschedule the BookWagon visit as quickly as possible.

First Regional Library reserves the right to discontinue stops that exhibit a continuing trend of low attendance and/or low circulation and/or declining use in order to maximize the BookWagon's impact throughout the service area.