



Children’s Book Project

The Children’s Book Project (CBP) is a service activity carried out by Local Units of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. It is the process of presenting books to elementary school students. The books then belong to the individual students—theirs to take home and cherish as they read them.



The Local Unit should make an official decision as to the parts which will be implemented that year. The decision should be promoted by the President and the Second Vice–President, who typically serves as Project Chairman. Making such a decision known keeps the membership involved and serves as orientation for new members. Each unit may choose the type of program(s) they will use: 1) New books may be purchased and given to the students, 2) “Student to Student” Book projects may be implemented.



1. Develop a plan using either the traditional CBP or the “Student to Student” Book Project or both. Books for the traditional CBP may be purchased using membership donations, fund raisers, or approaching school credit unions or community service friendly businesses for donations. Search for free and discount book sources. Wilmington Book Source, online, at www.literacyempowerment.org, gives away books. Many units purchase books from Scholastic and Half-Price Book Stores. If implementing the “Student to Student” Book Project, the individuals who will have the responsibility for the work must be identified. Distribution time of the year should be coordinated with school officials. Some units present books during Public Schools Week, some present during the holiday season and some at the end of the school year.

2. The “Student to Student” Book Project will be cost neutral to the local unit, but will require coordination and supervision. The Local Unit will approach middle or junior high school students and ask that they contribute books of their own to be given to younger children. The books will then be collected, carefully screened and cleaned, supplied with a bookplate, and given to primary grade students.

3. Select a school or schools to receive the books. Each Local Unit should develop its own methods of selection. Schools where students are deficient in reading skills should be afforded prime consideration. Students in low income areas should be another consideration.

4. Meet with the appropriate school personnel. This may mean starting with the superintendent. It will certainly require meeting with the principal, librarian and/or staff to explain the book project. For the traditional Children’s Book Project these steps would be necessary:

- Identify targeted class(es).
- Determine the age/reading level, listing of books and names of students.
- Teacher(s) and librarian assist the committee in book selection.
- CBP Committee obtains the books.
- The Local Unit Second Vice–President requests needed book plates from the TRTA office.
- The CBP Committee places book plates in the books and writes appropriate messages to the students.

5. “Student to Student” Book Project participants should follow these steps:

- Approach the students in the middle or junior high school and ask those who are willing to donate a used book of their own to give to a younger child to keep forever (please stress that this is voluntary).
- After an appropriate length of time (2 weeks possibly), pick up the books and screen them carefully.
- If the response is insufficient, the Local Unit may be solicited for donations of children’s used books.
- Meet with the elementary school librarian and teacher(s) to determine the most suitable recipients.
- The Local Unit Second Vice–President requests book plates from the TRTA office.
- The CBP Committee places book plates in the books and writes appropriate messages to the students.

6. Presentation of the books to students;

- Coordinate a presentation ceremony with the school (if both projects are being undertaken have two presentation ceremonies).
- The Local Unit Committee is encouraged to present each book personally.
- The superintendent, staff members, board members may be invited to attend the ceremony.
- Invite the local news media to the presentation, and/or provide pictures and articles for their use.

7. The Local Unit Second Vice–President is to report the actual number of books distributed to the District Second Vice-President by February 1. Please report the traditional CBP and the “Student to Student” Book Project combined. The book counting period is January 1 through December 31 of the previous year.

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