



11 April 2022

To do our part to help end poverty and increase literacy across the Nation, the Toys for Tots Literacy Program is providing books directly to schools receiving Title I funding. These books can be distributed directly to students or used in your libraries and classrooms. 2021 was our first year expanding our Program doing this and it was a very successful endeavor. We received and supported over 900 book requests for schools all over the U.S. We were able to deliver over 500,000 books to those schools for both teachers to use in their classrooms and directly to children.

Your school and/or school district can request books for specific reading levels that will be shipped directly to you. These books are provided free to you due to the generosity of the American public. Assisting in this effort are the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (or NAESPA, where ESEA is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act).

As background, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation launched the Toys for Tots Literacy Program in 2008. Our Program is a year-round initiative to support less fortunate children across our Nation's communities. The Program offers the Nation's most economically disadvantaged children the ability to compete academically and to succeed in life by providing them direct access to books and educational resources that enhance their ability to read and communicate effectively. This Program not only brings the joy of reading to these children, but also serves as an important tool in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Since its inception, through the generosity of our previous sponsor The UPS Store retail locations, the Program has collected over \$13,000,000 and distributed over 47 million books. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation initiated an endeavor to help lessen children's anxiety and bring normalcy to their lives by providing books directly to schools receiving Title I funding. This initiative was responsible for distributing over 172,000 books to children attending Title I schools.

To assist children directly by giving them books, or to help teachers with reading material in their classrooms or school libraries, the Foundation's book vendors will send reading level appropriate books, per your requests, that focus on topics, as much as possible, on subjects that provide children with the tools necessary to be successful throughout their lives. Books that focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) as well as titles that provide both entertainment and enrichment. We will send up to 500,000 books across the Nation with this back-to-school endeavor!

We invite you to go to our Title I School Book Request Form located here <https://www.toysfortots.org/literacy/title-1-book-request.aspx> and indicate your needs.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation looks forward to assisting your students with greater access to books. We hope that by providing these books, we are in a small part helping your mission of educating our Nation's most precious resource – our children!

Thank you for all you do and Semper Fidelis!  
**The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a Combined Federal Campaign approved charity (#10400)**

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