

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Read for Books?

Read for Books is a special book donation drive, which is part of the National Reading Movement. It aims to raise awareness and share the gift of reading with the less privileged.

From 1 to 31 July 2023, for every 10 people who read for 15 minutes, one book will be donated to selected beneficiaries, for up to approximately 9,200 books. Our selected beneficiaries for Read for Books 2023 are WondeRead, kidsREAD and Ready to READ @ NLB, Starter kit & Programmes for Babies and Toddlers.

This year, Read for Books is supported by Bubbly Books, Focus Publishing, Kinokuniya Bookstores of Singapore, Read With You, Scholastic Asia and the Singapore Book Publishers Association.

The National Reading Movement (NRM) was launched on 3 Jun 2016 by the National Library Board to encourage Singapore residents to Read More, Read Widely, and Read Together. The movement aims to encourage people to “Read More” by getting them to set aside some time to read regularly, “Read Widely” by going beyond the usual genres and read in mother tongue languages, and to “Read Together” with family and friends.

2. Who are the beneficiaries of the Read for Books Charity Drive?

We have three beneficiaries for Read for Books 2023 – WondeRead, kidsREAD and Ready to READ @ NLB, Starter kit & Programmes for Babies and Toddlers.

About the Beneficiaries:

The WondeRead initiative brings the library closer to children aged 7 – 17 years old from less privileged backgrounds, by providing reading opportunities through free reading materials. The initiative sees NLB working with Social Service Agencies (SSAs), such as charities and family service centres, to promote a love for reading among children.

kidsREAD is a nationwide reading initiative by NLB in partnership with People’s Association, self-help groups, MOE schools and preschools and social service groups to promote the love of reading and cultivate good reading habits among young Singaporeans, specifically children aged 4-8 years old from the less privileged families.

Ready to READ @ NLB, Starter kit & Programmes for Babies and Toddlers, is an initiative by NLB to reach out to parents of children aged 0 to 3 from the low-income families. This initiative provides parents with ready resources to kick-start positive reading habits with their children at home. NLB is collaborating with several organisations such as Early Childhood Development Agency (KidSTART), selected healthcare and preschool centres to provide these reading resources to them.

3. Are there any requirements to participate in Read for Books?

Anyone can participate – the only requirement is to be able to read for 15 minutes. While we also recommend participants to become library members to enjoy the wide variety of library materials available, this is not compulsory. You do not need to be a library member, nor a Singaporean, or living in Singapore to participate. This is in line with our aim of expanding Read for Books internationally.

4. How can agencies participate in Read for Books?

a. Read Together

Gather your colleagues for your own Read for Books session. Visit <https://go.gov.sg/rfb23-diyslides> to download the Read for Books instructional slides to get started.

Step 1: Register your agency's interest by submitting the registration form via <https://go.gov.sg/rfb23-organisations>. For further enquiries, please contact Preetashini at Preetashini_NAGARAJAH@nlb.gov.sg.

Step 2: Gather your colleagues to read together (online or a physical session) for 15 minutes from 1 to 31 July 2023.

Step 3: Take 1 to 2 photos or screengrabs of the activity.

Step 4: Upon completion of the activity, please submit the number of participants and photos taken at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb23-submit>.

NOTE: Please note that all submissions must be completed by 7 August 2023 (Monday), 11.59pm.

b. Read On Your Own

Staff can also participate as an individual and carry out the reading activity at their own time. They can record their participation at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb23-individuals>.

Note 1: Please note that all submissions must be sent by 7 August 2023 (Monday), 11.59pm. Unfortunately, due to audit requirements, late submissions will not be added into the final participation count.

Note 2: Donations are accumulative: every 10 individuals reading for 15 minutes = 1 book donated; same 10 individuals reading for 30 minutes = 2 books donated, and so forth.

5. Is any organisation providing monetary or in-kind support for this charity event?

Yes, Bubbly Books, Focus Publishing, Kinokuniya Bookstores of Singapore, Read With You, Scholastic Asia and the Singapore Book Publishers Association will be providing a donation-in-kind of books for the beneficiaries of Read for Books 2023.

6. If my agency/organisation conducts Read for Books on our own, does the activity need to be held between 1 to 31 July 2023?

Yes. Due to audit requirements, we will not be able to take into account organisations that do not participate within the stipulated period.

7. Can my agency/organisation contribute by purchasing books to donate instead of reading for 15 minutes?

No, agencies/organisations can only contribute by reading for 15 minutes as a participant in Read for Books. We are unable to accept other donations/modes of support at this point.

8. Can the books earned by my agency/organisation be donated to our adopted beneficiary instead?

No, the aim for Read for Books is to raise books for the selected beneficiaries, WondeRead, kidsREAD and Ready to READ @ NLB, Starter kit & Programmes for Babies and Toddlers. To meet the requested number of books, the Read for Books efforts this year will be channelled to helping these pre-identified groups only. See Q2 for details of beneficiaries.

9. Must the participants be all employees?

No, agencies can include employees' friends, family or agencies' beneficiaries as participants.

10. Can my agency/organization carry out multiple Read for Books sessions?

Yes.

11. When do I need to submit the final participation numbers?

To facilitate consolidation, we would appreciate it if you could submit your agency's/organisation's final participation numbers as well as photos at the end of the activity. However, if that is not possible, the numbers must be submitted by 7 August 2023 (Monday), 11.59pm to contribute towards Read for Books. This is due to audit requirements.

12. Are staff able to decide on the kind of material being read, for instance, books, newspapers and magazines? Also, are staff able to read eBooks (e.g. Kindle or on their phones)?

Staff would need to prepare their own reading materials for the reading activity. They are able to read any reading materials and in any language e.g. collection of articles, comics, newspapers, and even audiobooks! Staff can also download eBooks using the NLB mobile app.

For more ideas, do check out our book recommendations at <https://go.gov.sg/rfb23-bookrecs>.

13. Can the same officer/staff participate in more than one occasion?

Yes, it is possible for participants to participate more than once and their participation will contribute towards Read for Books accordingly.