

Downey City Library

2023



Investing in Our Future:
Backpacks for Early Literacy and
STEM Enrichment



The Downey City Library is proud to expand our participation in the education and enrichment of young students in our community. We recently concluded a three-month-long backpack distribution program to 12 Downey preschools and early learning institutions, and we are proud to report that it was a resounding success.



Thanks to the support of the California State Library and the Shared Vision Early Learning Grant, we were able to deliver 795 learning kits to students, each containing literacy and STEM resources. Students received two books, information on our preschool story time program, and a STEM box with supplies for the lights and shadows activity provided by Columbia Memorial Space Center's Early Childhood Program. Our library staff also had the pleasure of offering a story time read-along for many of the classes.



We are now seeking support to continue this program and make an even greater impact in our community. Your sponsorship would go a long way in providing more students with the resources they need to succeed.



We would be happy to provide you with more information about the program and how your support can make a difference. With your support, you can help us expand to neighboring communities outside of Downey.



Our goal as a library is to level the playing field for those disadvantaged in our community and give them a chance to succeed in life, regardless of their socioeconomic status (SES). Studies have shown that literacy and reading skills at age 7 are substantially and positively associated with SES at age 42, independent of other factors such as socioeconomic class at birth and intelligence (Ritchie SJ, 2013).



Even exposing children to a variety of fiction has shown to improve their "capacity to empathize with marginalized groups," the effects of reading persisting long after they've read the books (Mar, 2008).

Citations:

Mar, Raymond, Maja Djikic, and Keith Oatley. "Effects of reading on knowledge, social abilities, and selfhood." *Directions in empirical literary studies* (2008): 127-38.


Ritchie, Stuart J., and Timothy C. Bates. "Enduring links from childhood mathematics and reading achievement to adult socioeconomic status." *Psychological science* 24.7 (2013): 1301-1308.




Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and make a positive impact in the lives of young students in our community.





Contact Us

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