

Holding a Book Drive for ASKT!

The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to printed materials. Yet, recent studies discovered that 61% of low-income families own no books for their children. As a means of addressing these concerns, once a month every student in the ASKT program receives a free, new book to take home. All-Star Kids also regularly distributes gently used books to students. These "Bright Books" are purchased with funds from grants and donations, or donated by individuals. By holding a book drive for All-Star Kids, you help encourage a love of reading in children!

HOW TO DO IT:

Your Book Drive can be held within any community of people ready for action, such as your school, office, church, gym, neighborhood association, local grocery store, favorite bookstore, soccer team, writing group, choir class, extended family, 10 closest friends...

Get the permission and support of you principal, office manager, pastor, etc. before beginning. Set reasonable goals for your Book Drive (i.e., "50 people work in our office, we think that we should be able to collect 75 books in one month.") Be sure to let the ASKT staff know about your Book Drive; we would be happy to help you by obtaining incentives, speaking with your organization, etc.

Whether it's at your school, office, or local grocery store, a successful Book Drive is dependent upon advertising. Gather collection boxes, decorate and display them prominently. Post flyers, send emails, and make announcements to your group about the Drive. If you're holding a larger book drive at a school, for example, consider encouraging friendly competition by offering a pizza party to the class that collects the most books, or by giving out raffle tickets for every 5 donated books.

In your advertising, make the purpose, timeline, goals and any incentives for your Book Drive clear. Also, be specific about what kinds of books All-Star Kids Tutoring does and does not need:

Level:	Primarily books for Kindergarten through 3 rd grade; books for older children or adults may be traded, re-sold or given away at our Family Literacy Nights.
Quality:	New and gently used; books printed before 1985, or with torn covers, missing pages, scribbling, etc. will be donated to Thrift Stores.
Language:	English

When you finish your book drive, let everyone who participated know how many books you've collected and have a book sorting party. Gather together to categorize the books into age level and quality before donating them to All-Star Kids. Then, congratulate yourselves! Your organization's efforts will enrich the lives and reading abilities of many deserving children.