

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Access to books is an important factor in children's literacy, yet in many of the same under-resourced communities where the need for infant supplies is high, so is the need for books. Research shows that in under-resourced communities, there is an average of one book per 300 children. This is in stark contrast to middle-income communities, where, on average, there are 13 books in a single home.



York, Neb.,
Lodge No. 1024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Basic supplies like diapers and wipes prevent health issues and ensure babies can be enrolled in childcare, which impacts their parents' ability to work or attend school. A Community Baby Shower with an early learning initiative boosts the foundation for parents to raise healthy, active readers.



STEP 1 Identify Your Participants

Before applying for this project, contact local hospitals, women's shelters, or other organizations that provide services to new parents to invite them to the Community Baby Shower.



STEP 2 Make it a Success

Inform co-workers, friends, family members, and neighbors about the event and encourage them to donate. The most needed items are: diapers (all sizes), wipes, formula, blankets, onesies, bottles, and of course, children's board books.



STEP 3 Partner with Your Community

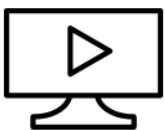
Consider partnering with local agencies, vendors, or community groups that can provide workshops on topics such as growth and development, healthy foods and nutrition, pre-term labor, safety and play.



STEP 4 Make it Your Own

Remember the Lodge's project must incorporate literacy. Consider partnering with local libraries, schools, or universities that can provide information and resources for parents to help develop literacy skills in young children. If this is a family-friendly baby shower, include literacy activities for children in attendance.

WATCH!



View [Hyannis, Mass., Lodge No. 1549's Community Baby Shower video](#) for ideas!