

SUDS & STORIES



Rockland, Maine,
Lodge No. 1008

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Lodges can transform the local laundromat into a center for early childhood development and education. While guests do their laundry, children are safely engaged and entertained with supervised activities including music, reading, coloring, face painting and more.



STEP 1 Get Started

Before planning an event, locate a local laundromat that is willing to partner with the Lodge. The business owner may want to contact the [LaundryCares Foundation](#), which frequently seeks out laundromats to host [free laundry day events](#) and provides literacy resources to under-resourced communities. Lodges should consider laundromats close to motels, affordable housing, shelters, or city transit stops to increase participation from families with transportation restrictions.



STEP 2 Make it a Success

Identify families through the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Head Start, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and other similar organizations.



STEP 3 Make it Your Own

In order to qualify, the event must include a literacy component geared toward children. Some ideas include hosting a story time, providing free books to all children who attend, and other literacy-building activities.

After securing a laundromat, determine the number of washers and dryers on site and the average cost per load. Make sure you have all the funds you need to make this successful. The Lodge also needs to decide how long to hold the event (e.g. two hours), if it will limit the number of loads per family, and what supplies it will offer (laundry detergent, dryer sheets, books to take home, etc.).