



ELC's Storybook Street Hits It Out Of The Park: Reaching Capacity in 30 Minutes

On Saturday, February 8, 2025, Storybook Street reached a milestone like never before. Hosted by the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County (ELC) in the concourse of Ed Smith Stadium, the spring training home of the Baltimore Orioles, the beloved family event hit capacity in under 30 minutes, a first in its history.

More than 400 families with children ages birth to seven gathered for the free event, where over 8,000 books were distributed in just two hours. The 5th annual Storybook Street once again transformed into an "Imagination Destination," delivering literacy, art, and science in an unforgettable, interactive experience.

Families immersed themselves in whimsical story-inspired activities, live performances, music, and movement, with children dressed in costumes as their favorite storybook characters. More than 20 community partners helped bring books to life, from Gulf Coast Music Therapy's melodies to Nailed It DIY's arts immersion to hands-on learning with the Sidewalk Science Center.

A huge shout out to all of our partners:

Sarasota Orchestra • Venice Theatre • Gulf Coast Music Therapy • Nailed It DIY Sarasota • SCF Natural Sciences • CreArte Latino • Baltimore Orioles • The Ringling Museum • Big Cat Habitat • Future of Dance • Wholehearted Education • Sidewalk Science Center • The Venice Symphony • Sarasota Young Voices • Sarasota Children's Museum • All Faiths Food Bank • The Sarasota Players • Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation • UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

"This year's turnout was beyond anything we've experienced before," said Janet Kahn, ELC CEO. "The overwhelming response shows how much families value literacy and the joy of stories brought to life."

To better manage the extraordinary demand, Storybook Street will transition to a free RSVP ticketing system beginning in 2026, ensuring more families can safely enjoy the experience without the worry of capacity limits.

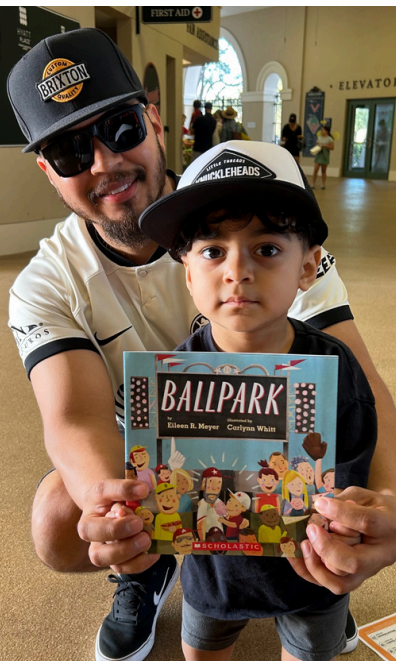
The ELC also announced that Storybook Street 2026 will return to South County, continuing its mission to spark imagination and build lifelong readers. Details will be shared in the months ahead.

About the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County:

The Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County prepares local infants, toddlers and preschool children for lifelong success through access to quality early learning programs. Serving more than 4,000 children and 155 childcare providers every year, the Coalition administers and oversees the local integrated system of early care and education across Sarasota County.



20 BOOKS PER FAMILY



STORYBOOK Street 2025

 **Early Learning**
Coalition of Sarasota County
Ready for Learning. Ready for Life!

