

www.buchstart.ch www.nepourlire.ch www.natiperleggere.ch

# Selecting 2 boards books for 1 nation with 4 official languages and many cultural backgrounds

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#### Contents



- Basics about Bookstart Switzerland
- Book Selection





cooperation of 2 nationwide working institutions:

SIKJM Swiss Institute for Children's and Youth Media <a href="www.sikjm.ch">www.sikjm.ch</a> specialist library, research, reading promotion, continuing education, publications, exhibitions, Swiss section of IBBY

#### financing:

50% Ministry of Culture/cantons, 30% project-related funds, 20% self-provided services and donations

Bibliomedia Switzerland www.bibliomedia.ch

library provider incl. class reading material and reading promotion cover most part of the Bookstart finances

#### financing:

50% Ministry of Culture, 50% through media distribution (contracts with cantons/libraries/schools)

## Facts about Switzerland

## Buchstart Né pour lire Nati per leggere Naschì per leger

#### Switzerland 2019:

- 8'500'000 inhabitants
- 87'000 births/year
- federal republic with 26 cantons
- 4 official languages
  - Swiss German (62,2%), French (22,9%), Italian (8,0%), Romansh (0.5%)
- PISA: 25% of 15 year olds do not understand what they read



## Bookstart 2008-2020



#### before 2008:

- relatively <u>new political discussion</u> of early childhood
- no network for early childhood or even early literacy
- nothing in libraries for very young children!
- no obligatory examinations at the pediatrician
- very low Swiss board book production

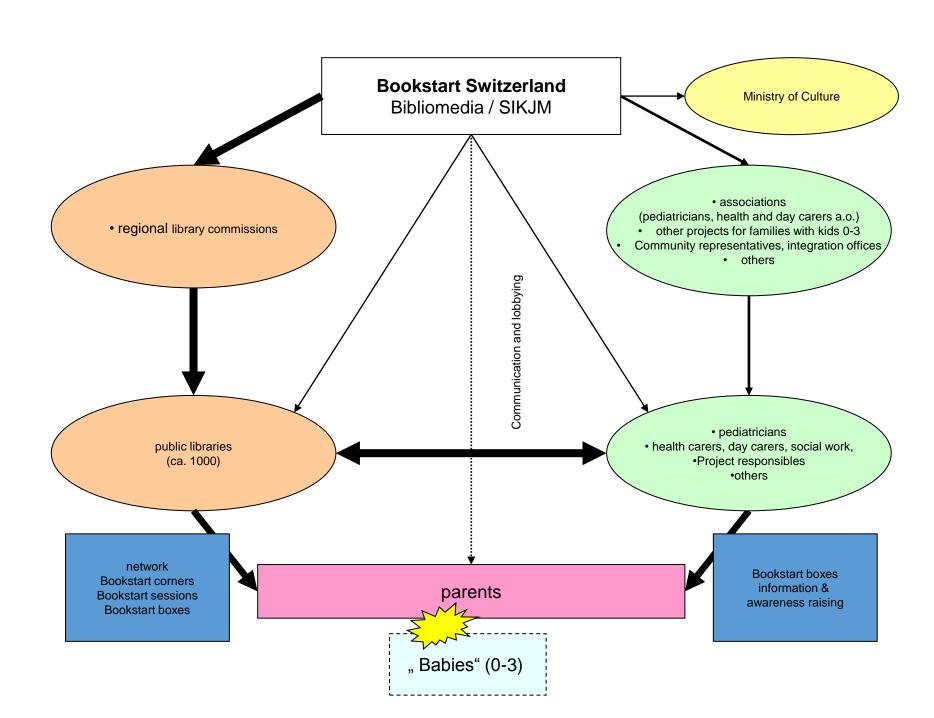


## Bookstart 2008-2020



- one project but 3 different solutions in the 3 linguistic regions (German, French, Italian)
- creating a network for early childhood/education parallel to the political discussion
- libraries reach a new target group (parents with babies)





## **Bookstart 2020**



- distribution of boxes with a coverage of 31% coverage (2019)
- most pediatricians and maternal advisors are involved
- 700 (out of 1000) public libraries take part
- regular Bookstart Rhyme and Story time sessions (held by trained reading promotors) in libraries and other places





## **Bookstart 2020**

Buchstart
Né pour lire
Nati per leggere
Naschì per leger

- local networks grow steadily
- high commitment of people involved

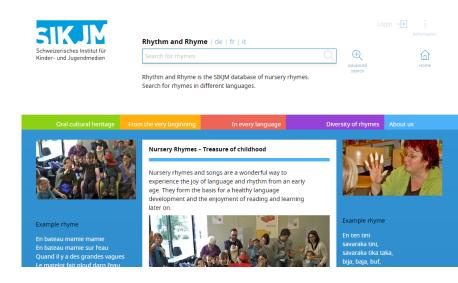


- but: not all parents informed do also get/collect the books
- hard to reach are in focus
- cooperation needed with new partners and outreach/targeted projects





- courses for all partners
- www.rhythm-and-rhyme.net
   nursery rhymes in 22 languages
   as as sign of respect and welcome



- 6 different Bookstart boxes produced since 2008
- growing interest of Swiss editors to produce board books



- box contains
  - 2 board books
  - a multilingual parents' flyer in 16 languages
- selected by a committee of experts from children's literature and child development
- every 2 years







- books produced in the 3 national main languages
- translations in 30 languages available online
- since 2020:
   available as Kamishibai for use in Bookstart sessions





- Suitable for all parts of the country
- focus on Swiss production

#### Early project years:

- 1 book -18 months (early concept book, language aquisition)
- 1 book from 12months (first story)











#### a) competition for Swiss editors in 2013

- 2 small board books for different age groups
  - Book 1: daily life situations on neutral background
  - Book 2: beginners' story close to daily life including elements for interaction

<u>Focus on narration</u> lead to a combination of book 1 and 2















#### b) development with a Swiss editor

#### 2 board books with first stories

- no longer for two different age groups
- illustrated by young Swiss illustrators
- strengthen parent-child dialogue
- room for imagination
- story close to a child's daily life
- clear, but not simple text picture relation or no text at all
- repetitions and opportunity of interaction (flaps a.o.)
- diverse children present
- humor!
- 3 languages present in one book?





















### Conclusion



- book selection is challenging!
- discussion of book contents is valuable for all people involved in production and distribution

- 2 small board books cannot cover everything:
  - multilinguality (parents' flyer and translations online)
  - representation of diversity of children and families?