



Kristi Yamaguchi's ALWAYS DREAM

Our Mission



At Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream, we believe that literacy is the foundation for pursuing dreams.

Our Always Reading program ensures that children from under-resourced communities have access to high-quality books in the home environment and extensive family engagement support.

Our Approach



Our Always Reading program promotes at home reading for transitional and pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students by providing knowledge for families to support their children in building early literacy skills as they enter the school system.

The Reality of Literacy Today

Book Access

Communities of concentrated poverty have 1 book for every 300 children.



Reading Engagement

Less than 50% of young children are read aloud to by a family member each day.

Literacy Success

Research shows that family engagement is the number one predictor of early literacy success.

"I've enjoyed watching my child learn new words, start reading on her own, and find new favorite books."

—Always Reading Program Participant



Our Three Key Pillars



Equity through Technology

Each student receives a digital tablet and a data connection (if needed) for the program's duration, ensuring equal opportunities for learning. Families keep the tablets once they complete the program.



Access to High-Quality Books

Families gain unlimited access to a digital children's library featuring 40,000 high-quality titles and are gifted hardcopy books for their home libraries throughout the year.



Family Engagement

Our Book Coaches support caregivers in integrating reading into their daily routines. Through regular check-ins and education sessions, we empower families to make reading a lifelong habit.

Program Outcomes

**from the 2025–26 school year*

80%

of families report their child **looks at books with them more times per week** since participating in Always Reading

90%

of caregivers report that participating in Always Reading has made them **more confident helping their child with reading**

91%

of families report they are **better able to help their child develop a love of reading**



"I have enjoyed how easy and convenient the tablet makes reading. It gives me access to many books in one place, which helps my child explore different types of stories and learn new things. The Always Reading Program has encouraged my child to read more regularly. Overall, it has made reading more interesting and a part of our daily routine."

–Always Reading Program Participant

By The Numbers

**for the 2026-27 school year*

7,405

Students and family members reached

26

School partners across four islands in Hawai'i

18

School partners across Northern California

177

Pre-k, TK, and kindergarten classrooms

About Always Dream

Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing early literacy through family engagement. Founded in 1996 by Olympic gold medalist and bestselling author Kristi Yamaguchi, Always Dream's Always Reading program helps children and families build lifelong reading habits through access to books, technology, and personalized literacy support in Northern California and Hawai'i.

Media Resources

[Always Dream Media Archive](#)

[Always Dream Brand Assets](#)

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From Kristi Yamaguchi, Founder of Always Dream

"As a mom of two, I've witnessed the transformative power of reading in my daughters' lives and in the lives of the countless children and families we've worked with over the years. I feel books unlock the imagination in children, and that's where dreams are born."



@Kristi Yamaguchi's



Always Dream