Cradles to Crayons

HOW TO QUALITY CHECK BOOKS AT HOME!

Quality = Dignity

At Cradles to Crayons, our bedrock value is that Quality = Dignity. We strive to provide children living in low-income or homeless situations with the highest quality everyday items. You can help us provide children with books to read by quality checking them at home!

Due to the constraints of our units, we kindly ask that you only donate items using bags that have been securely tied shut, or in small boxes that have been taped closed. Please do not leave donations outside of the unit.

How Do You Quality Check Books?

1. Inspect all books to make sure there are no rips, tears or writing on the inside.
   a. Be sure to check the entire book for quality by flipping through all of the pages.
   b. For other examples of what doesn’t meet our quality standards, see the box below.
2. If a book is of good quality, bring it to a drop-off location found here: https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/chicago/take-action/donate-goods/find-local-drop-off/
3. If a book does not meet our quality standards, please visit www.cradlestocrayons.org/chicago/at-home for a list of places to donate.

Some examples of what doesn’t meet our quality standards:

- Books with inscriptions on the inside covers
  - Ex. “Happy Birthday, Eli!”
- Books with broken bindings, discolored pages, or bent covers
- Books with family or holiday references
  - Ex. I Am a Big Brother, or a book about the Easter Bunny
- Books that are not appropriate for children younger than 12
- Single issue comic books
- Library books, textbooks and school workbooks