A homeschool reading log for the portfolio, kept as you go

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A free homeschool reading log: every book a child reads, dated and listed by month, printed for an evaluator or saved as a spreadsheet, with nothing to type each night.

Several states ask homeschooling families to keep a list of the books a child reads during the year, and an evaluator usually asks to see it; the easiest list to keep is one that writes itself as the child reads. Peabody's bookshelf has a "For the record" view that does that: every book a child logs, dated, by month, printed on paper for the evaluator or saved as a spreadsheet. It is free, like the rest of Peabody through the end of 2026, and nothing in it leaves the family's device.

This is not legal advice. Check your own state's rules: some want titles and authors, some want a log kept at the time of teaching, and some want nothing at all.

How it fills itself

A child logs a book once, with a tap, wherever they read it: in one of Peabody's reading challenges (the year-long Reading 2027 is a good fit for a homeschool year) or in the family reading log, which can also fill in a day already gone. Books from Peabody's free library, from the kids' lists, from a series, or from anywhere else (a grown-up types the title, or finds it from the barcode) all count.

The record lists every one of them by date, with where it was logged and how many times it was read. A read-aloud the whole family shared shows on each child's record.

What the evaluator sees

- The printed record: a page or two for the year, headed by month, each line a date and a title, and a line at the top saying how many readings of how many books.
- The spreadsheet: the same list as a CSV file with the date, the title, where it was logged and how many times, for families who keep a portfolio on a computer.

For hours, attendance, subjects and the rest of the year, the Record Book on Peabody's homeschool site keeps a reading log of its own beside them.

What it doesn't do

It doesn't grade reading, measure a level, or say how well a book was understood. It records what was read and when. Narrations, book reports and conversations are what show understanding; the Book Club's report templates and projects help with those, on paper.

Keeping it safe

The record lives in the browser on the device the child uses. Clearing the browser clears it, so print or save the spreadsheet at the end of each term. Brothers and sisters each have their own animal face on the device and their own record; a grown-up can clear one child's record without touching anyone else's.

A year, in practice

Most homeschool families we hear from want three things from a reading record: that it's complete, that it took no extra work, and that it's honest. A list that fills as the child reads meets all three. Print it at the end of each term, tuck it into the portfolio, and the year's list is done before the evaluator asks.

Questions families ask

Does it include books we read before we started?

Only from the day you start, in the challenges. The family reading log can fill in earlier days if you want them on the record.

Can it show the author?

The title is what the record keeps. For books from Peabody's lists and series the title is the book's own; for a book from home, the grown-up can type "Title by Author" in the title box.

Is a CSV file what evaluators want?

Some do, most are happy with paper. The spreadsheet is there for families who keep everything in one folder on a computer.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/homeschool-reading-log-for-the-portfolio