

Back to school with books and backpacks

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Sarasota County libraries and the Sarasota Housing Authority held a “Back to School Bash” Wednesday at the Learning Center in Sarasota, offering books, backpacks and school supplies to families. Everyone who showed up also had the opportunity to register for library cards. Wednesday’s event was part of the national Book-Rich Environment campaign, during which the two organizations aimed to distribute 2,500 free books over the summer to children, many of whom live in public housing communities. Summer reading programs also were offered to children in the area as part of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Students return to school in Sarasota County on Monday; in Manatee County, today is the first day of school.



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Kids pick up their backpacks and books at the Learning Center.