

The Zayed Book Award is a shot in the arm for Arabic kids' books

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Kalimat, publishes books out of Sharjah, only in Arabic and only for children

It's a figure sure to incite envy. Eight winners of the prestigious Sheikh Zayed Book Award, which took place last week in Abu Dhabi, received prize money of Dh750,000 each totalling a whopping Dh7 million.

Among the winners was a publishing house Kalimat that publishes only children's books in Arabic. They bagged an award for Publishing and Technology. We caught up with Tamer Said, 38, the general manager of Kalimat Group. Said, who moved to UAE from Egypt, said, "We started 10 years ago. When the company began, we had one aim - providing the Arabic book market with the best and most nurturing children's books." Said has been with the organisation for more than six years.