



RRSC Story Lines

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

As Director of Raising Readers in Story County, it is my sincere pleasure to extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you this December. Your unwavering support and dedication have been the cornerstone of our success this year, bringing the magic of reading, literacy, and learning into the homes of countless families in our community.

This holiday season, we reflect on the profound impact we have achieved together. Because of your generosity, we have been able to provide thousands of books, facilitate engaging literacy programs, and witness firsthand the joy and confidence on children's faces when they discover the power of reading...and furthermore, that they now possess that power. It's truly life changing! These moments of connection and

Support RRSC!



Click below to support our mission to impact children's literacy and share the joy

learning are made possible only with your support, our dedicated donors and volunteers.

While we celebrate these successes, our work in the midst of our fall appeal campaign continues. The need for literacy resources in Story County remains significant. We urge you to consider a special year-end gift to help us close out a strong campaign and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

Your contribution directly translates into brighter futures for local children. Not only do we intend to sustain our current efforts, but we also plan to expand and develop our reach to connect with even more families and children in the area. With your continued partnership, we continue to work toward our goal of ensuring every child has the foundation they need to thrive.

Thank you for believing in our mission. We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Yours in literacy~

Kristi Mayo

Executive Director

Raising Readers in Story County

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

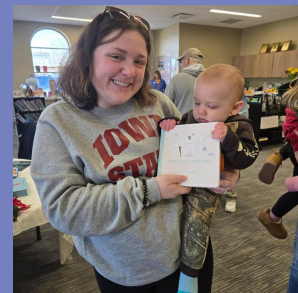
Check out our calendar of events to see where you'll find Raising Readers!

- December 6
 - [ISU Bookstore Storytime](#)Iowa State University Bookstore, Ames, 10:30-11:30 am
- December 11 & 18
 - [STARS Storytime](#)RRSC office at North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-10:30 am
- December 14
 - [Christmas in Colo](#)

of reading

DONATE

If you'd like to explore other contribution options more in line with planned or recurrent giving, please send us an email. We are happy to discuss our full menu of donation opportunities with you.



Children and families enjoyed choosing new books at the Cambridge Vendor Fair held on November 22.



Colo Fire Station, Colo, 5:30-7 pm

- December 15
 - **Santa Storytime**

RRSC office at North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-11 am

- December 17
 - **Salvation Army Toy Shop**

E Lincoln Way, Ames, 8:30 am - 6 pm

- December 20
 - **Playful Pages: Traveling Tales**

,RRSC office at North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-11 am



31 Reading
Buddies
Reached



200+
Hours
Read in
Story Pals

375 Hours
Together in
Reading
Buddies

64 Story
Pals
Enjoyed
Reading

Fall 2025 Reading Buddies & Story Pals



Apply to Spring 2026

Reading Buddies

Kindergarten and 1st grade students

Two, 45-minute sessions weekly, 9 weeks

Skills practice, shared reading, learning activities

Applications due by Monday, February 16



Playful Pages: Dinosaurs and Traveling Tales

Our Little Literacy Lounge roared to life during our dinosaur-themed Playful Pages Family Workshop held in November! Families explored stories, songs, and activities for some hands-on learning and fun. We also took the fun on the road at the Cambridge Memorial Library to explore Traveling Tales. We enjoyed meeting so many curious kids and



AGE 3-5 AND THEIR FAMILIES

PLAYFUL PAGES

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Raising Readers Little Literacy Lounge 10:00 - 11:00 am
North Grand Mall

2026 Winter and Spring Dates

- January 17: Little Builders at Work
- February 21: Weather Watchers
- March 21: Busy Birds
- April 18: Vroom, Zoom, Move!
- May 16: Garden Explorers
- June 20: Bug Hunters



REGISTER TODAY!



Small Talk Graduation in Nevada

This month we celebrated our Small Talk group in Nevada as they completed the program! Families gathered to mark their hard work and commitment to talking, reading, and building their baby's brain development. We're so proud of our graduates and thankful for the community they created together.

Registration is open for our Winter Small Talk workshop series held at North Grand Mall in Ames!

SMALL TALK TALK BUILDS BABY'S BRAIN!

Take part in weekly classes to learn, connect,
and watch your baby thrive!

In-Person Class (Parents and Child)

- Tuesdays 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- January 6 – March 10, 2026
- Raising Readers at North Grand Mall

Interested in a virtual option? (Parents only)

- Mondays 5:30 – 6:15 PM
- January 12 – March 16, 2026



Why Join Small Talk?

- Learn research-based practices that boost your baby's brain.
- Built-in play time with your baby!
- Explore the 14 Talking Tips in a relaxed atmosphere.
- Connect with other parents
- Dinner Provided (In-Person)
- New Books!



515-520-8686
www.raising-readers.org
smalltalk@raising-readers.org

Fall Impact



Overview

Fall 2025 was a season of growth for Raising Readers. We welcomed 51 new volunteers and celebrated the return of 50 others. Their dedication made a meaningful difference for children throughout Story County, and we are truly grateful for their support.



Volunteer Highlights

Total Number of Fall Volunteers	Total Fall Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Opportunity Categories	Number of Opportunity Locations
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101

1162.53

15

7

Volunteer Snapshot: Fall Programs and Workshops

Reading Buddies

- Volunteers served at 3 site locations
- 31 students benefited from one-on-one time with their volunteer
- 497.51 volunteer hours helped children build reading skills and strong relationships

Playful Pages Family Workshops

- Volunteers supported two locations
- 11.14 volunteer hours were dedicated to working with parents to increase language and literacy development through play

Small Talk

- Volunteers joined Robyn at the Nevada Public Library
- Volunteers spent 12.67 hours strengthening community ties and helping parents support their babies' brain development

Story Pals

- Volunteers were active at 2 site locations
- To date, volunteers have dedicated 230.87 hours to building positive relationships and inspiring a love of reading as our Nevada site continues its fall season



RAISING READERS IN
STORY COUNTY

Small Talk Volunteers Needed



The Details:

- Tuesdays from 5:30 - 7:00 PM
OR 5:45 - 7:15 PM
- January 6 - March 10 at North Grand Mall in Ames
- Flexible scheduling: Volunteer for the dates you're available
- Light dinner provided

Volunteers will support the Family Literacy Specialist with station oversight, story time, check-in, and other assigned tasks.



IMPACT

- Support families in your community
- Help children build essential early literacy skills
- Inspire the next generation of readers



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO SIGN UP

* Quick Tip *

**Vome Volunteer: Taking a vacation?
Schedule your time off using Vome.**

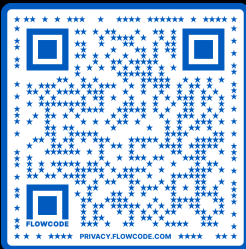


1. Log into your Vome account
2. Navigate to the left sidebar and select "Schedule"
3. Find "Add Time Off" in the top right side of the screen and click it
4. Select "Add Time Off" and add the type of time off you are selecting (single day or a date range).
5. Enter the date(s) you will be absent
6. Add a note in the "Reason" box if you'd like to share
7. Click the orange "Save" button



Interested in learning more? Contact Hanna Bell at hannabell@raising-readers.org to set up an appointment.

RRSC mission: To support the language and literacy of young children by providing books, caregiver guidance, and early childhood programs.



Contact Us
515-520-8686

director@raising-readers.org

www.raising-readers.org

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Lines



**Raising
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IN STORY COUNTY

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