

The mission of Raising Readers in Story County is to improve language and literacy development in children from birth to age eight and nurture healthy parent-child relationships.



**July 2017**



"Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks." - Dr. Seuss

---



**Thank You Harrison Barnes for Your Support!  
The Harrison Barnes Reading Academy Partnership Grows**



On Tuesday, June 27th, Ames Public Library and Raising Readers in Story County were presented with a check by Harrison Barnes at the Ames City Council meeting to support Harrison Barnes Reading Academy and Reading Buddies in 2017-18! The money will fund staffing for both organizations as well as other program needs. Harrison and RRSC director Kim Hanna filmed an episode of Well Read with Jerri Heid with the Ames Public Library to talk about his passion for youth literacy, his time in Ames, and how excited we all are to work together to provide free literacy programs for children in Ames and Story County! Thank you Harrison Barnes for your support!

Starting in Fall 2017, both the school year program and the summer tutoring program will be called Harrison Barnes Reading

Academy.

## 2017 K-3 Reading Buddies

We have finished up two of the six weeks of our free summer literacy program Reading Buddies and we are having a blast! At eight sites in Ames and two sites in Nevada, 113 children are meeting with volunteers (91 and counting!) twice a week for 45 minute sessions to maintain or improve their reading levels and avoid the 'Summer Slide'. Volunteers read to their student, students read to their volunteer, and students do word sorts and writing activities as part of the program.

In the picture above this month's quote, one of our Reading Buddies shows off her Reading Log sheet! Hiyab got to color in a vegetable for every 20 minutes of reading time she did over the week. Participants get to pick out a lending library book at the end of each session to take home and read to encourage at least twenty minutes of reading time a day. Her favorite color is pink and she proudly reported that she read Pinkalicious two times after taking it home!



Volunteer and Reading Buddy work on word sorts at Bethesda Lutheran Church



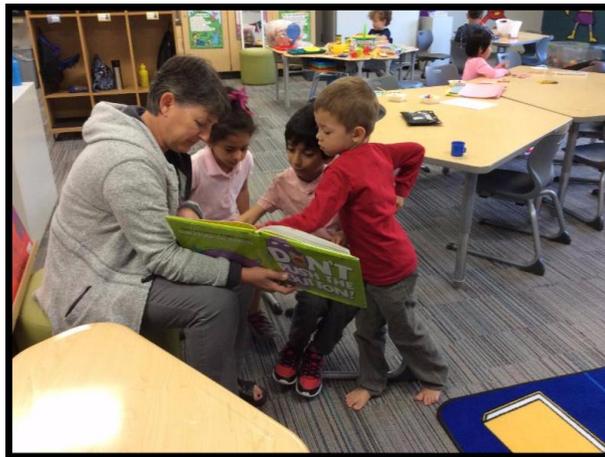
**Story Cubes** are a great tool to utilize the Reading Buddy's creativity in writing and storytelling activities.



Five of our eight site supervisors and FLCE Lisa Reeves working on lesson plans for their sites. We have an amazing group of site supervisors this year!

## Super K - Transition to Kindergarten June Session

Our first group of Super K's are SUPER READY for Kindergarten after participating in our eight-day Transition to Kindergarten program Super K! Nine 5 yr olds participated and are now super friends, super listeners, super organizers, and super problem solvers as they became familiar with the backpack routine, lunch tray procedures, opening milk cartons, and saying "goodbye" to families at the door. Each student received a free backpack, school supplies, daily snacks, and lunch.



Assistant Teacher Mrs. Campbell reads 'Don't Touch the Button'



What a great group of Super K's!



Everyone loves Story Time with Ms. Dahlke!



### **20 Minutes a Day Keeps the Summer Slide Away!**

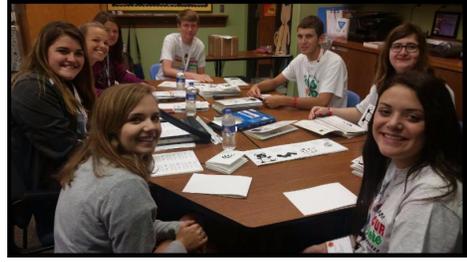
Reading at least twenty minutes a day this summer is so important to a child's literacy development.

Make sure the children in your life are reading and/or being read to at least twenty minutes a day this summer to maintain the reading skills they just worked so hard to accomplish during the school year.

## THANK YOU!

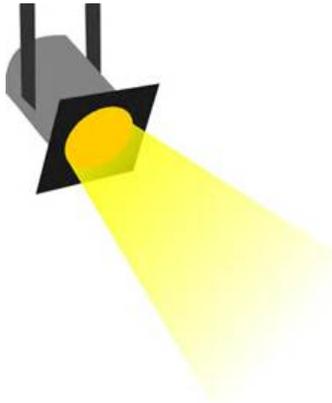
We thank all of our generous donors, volunteers, and partners who are helping to create brighter futures for Story County children and families.

Donations like yours support our programs. We thank **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference Volunteers** for volunteering with Raising Readers in Story County in June! The volunteers folded hundreds of posters for our 2-month Reach Out and Read pamphlets as well as labeled brochures for us. They saved us hours of staff or volunteer time and were so much fun to work with! Thank you!



If you would like to help support the vital programs offered by Raising Readers in Story County please make a gift today!

[DONATE](#)



## Volunteer Spotlight!

### Emily Hall

Continuing our spotlights of school year volunteers who are with us this summer for Reading Buddies, we are spotlighting Emily Hall in July! Emily was a StoryPals volunteer at Northwood Preschool during the school year, and is serving as site supervisor for our Eastwood Apts and Bethesda Lutheran Church Reading Buddies sites this summer. Emily volunteered for StoryPals because she strongly

supports our mission.

Emily is originally from Ames and is currently an Elementary Education student at Iowa State University. Her endorsements are in Reading and Math and she is close to graduation with only her student teaching left this fall. She'll be student teaching through the stem-based TRINECT program in a 3rd-grade classroom at Gartin Elementary School in Des Moines.

Emily spends most of her free time working with children, although you might recognize her if you are a regular at Great Plains Sauce and Dough Company and Brick City Grill, where she works. She also loves playing with her five pets (three dogs and two guinea pigs)!



**Q: What do you think of the RRSC volunteer experience?**

One of my favorite experiences with RRSC was when one of my three-year-old Story Pals acted out a different dinosaur for me every time we met!

**Q: Why are you excited to be a part of Reading Buddies this summer?**

I am excited for Reading Buddies because I love seeing the connections made between tutors and tutees blossom, along with the growth that can be seen within each student as a reader.

**Q: What surprised you about RRSC or your volunteer experience?**

The passion that every person involved has for literacy education in the primary grades. My supervisors have been great role models and I have learned more than I could have imagined along the way!

**Q: What would you say to someone considering volunteering for RRSC?**

This opportunity is something that I wish I would have found years ago! Volunteering for RRSC comes with many unique experiences with literacy education and connections with both students and peers that last a lifetime.



Emily (far right) and other StoryPals volunteers at Northwood this year!

**Q: Anything else you'd like to share about yourself or your volunteer experience?**

With every new child I work with, I make it my goal to help them become passionate about literacy and begin to understand the beauty of learning. Here is a quote that guides me every day, said by Rita Pearson, "Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

---

## Dates to Remember

**K-3 Reading Buddies**

*June 19-August 3 (minus 4th of July week)*

8 sites in Ames, 2 sites in Nevada

**Super K-Transition to Kindergarten**

*June 19-29 or July 10-20*

Edwards Elementary School, Ames

*July 14-August 3*

Central Elementary School, Nevada

**Eastern Story County Step Into Storybooks**

*Saturday, March 3, 2018*

Central Elementary School, Nevada

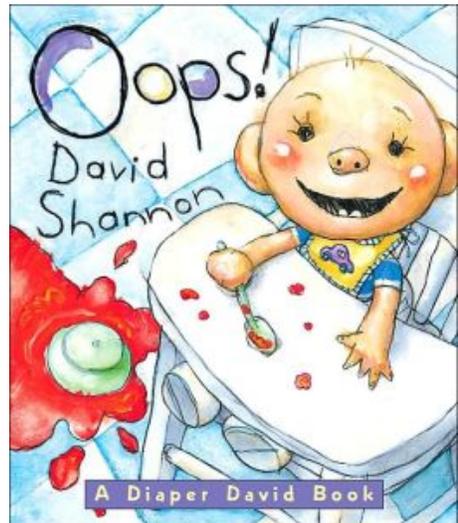


**Step Into Storybooks**

## #WeekendReading

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to get inspiration each Friday on a book to read with your family!

If you have a favorite #weekendreading book that you read as a family, email [contact@raising-readers.org](mailto:contact@raising-readers.org) and we may feature it in the coming weeks!

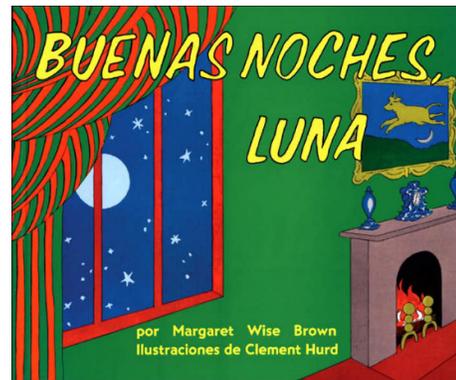


## RRSC Wish List

We are so grateful for our volunteers and supporters and have a few things that we are looking to add to our organization. If you would like to donate, please contact us at [contact@raising-readers.org](mailto:contact@raising-readers.org).

### Wish List

- Roller suitcases (all sizes)
- A vacuum cleaner (preferably cordless and rechargeable)
- Korean/Mandarin/Cantonese language children's books
- Spanish language children's books
- Arabic language children's books
- Fabric tote bags *you know, the ones that are in a pile in your closet!*
- Fans (box, swivel, etc)



Tote bags with handles help us carry books easily!



STAY CONNECTED:

