

About Us

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FEED YOUR BABY'S BRAIN



TALK - SING - READ



www.raising-readers.org



RRSC Story Lines

April: Month of the Young Child

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

April is the Month of the Young Child, and I know of no better time to highlight the importance of early childhood experiences and the critical role families and communities play in nurturing our youngest learners.

At Raising Readers we strive to provide opportunities for children and their families year-round that exemplify the type of early environment that promotes solid language and literacy foundations but the April calendar is particularly loaded events. Next week Raising Readers volunteers will visit local preschool centers as guest readers and ambassadors of early literacy. Then on April 12, in partnership with several local agencies, we host our annual Step Into Story Books event at North Grand Mall where families of young children are invited to join us for literacy activities and so much hands-on fun!

Later in the month we celebrate our 25th Birthday with a

Support RRSC!



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

DONATE

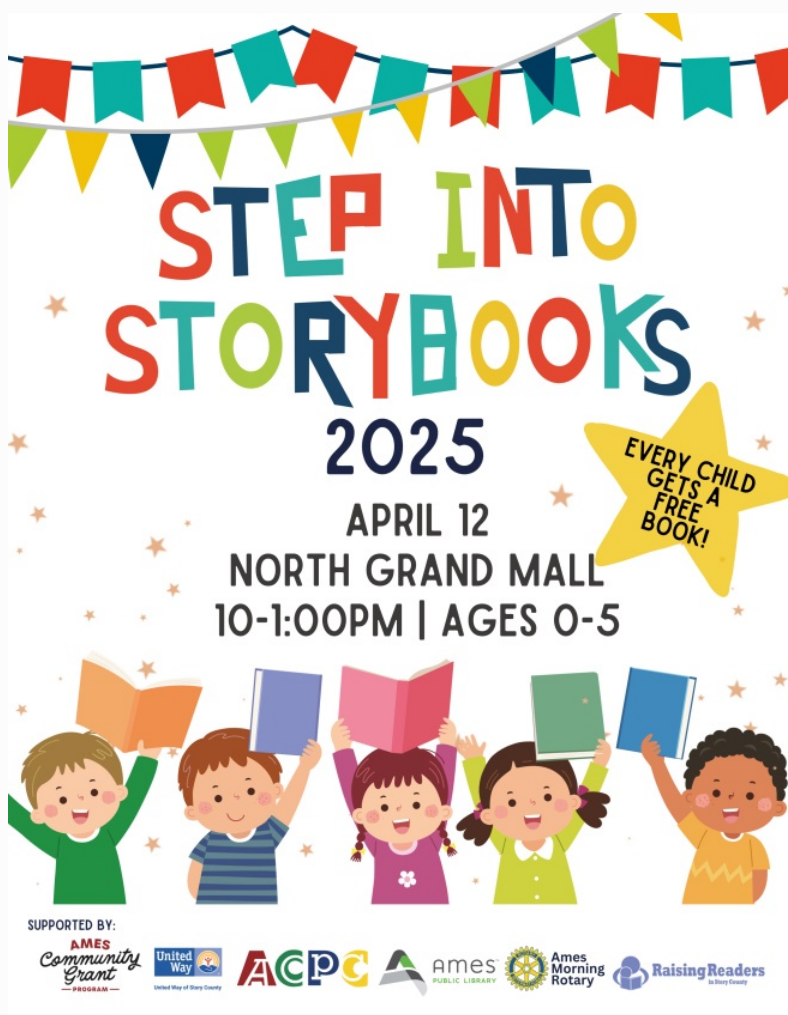
party where all are welcome to join us as we share our programs and their impact, reflect on our history and honor our past, provide activities, story times, and refreshments for guests, and bring together those with a passion for improving outcomes for children in our community (and provide the opportunity to make a financial gift for those interested in supporting our future work). We hope to see you all there on the evening of the 25th as we celebrate 25 years of investing in children's futures! Watch your mail and/or inboxes for party details.

Yours in literacy~

Kristi Mayo

Executive Director

Raising Readers in Story County



*If you'd ever like to explore other donation options more in line with planned or recurrent giving, feel free to shoot me an email and I am happy to discuss alternatives with you.

**Playful Pages
Family Workshop:
Feathered
Friends~ March
2025**



*Playful Pages
young birders
engaged in hands-
on activities and
explored the world*

SMALL TALK



WINTER 2025 GRADUATES



CONGRATS TO ALL 11 GRADS!

Congratulations to our Winter Small Talk co-hort graduates! These families are committed to building their children's brains with intentional talk and literacy rich environments. Knowledge is power! Registration is open for upcoming late spring/summer session.

of birds! This workshop was supported by the **Big Bluestem Audubon Society**, providing new bird books for participants and lending their expertise to the experience!



2025 Playful Pages Family Workshops are supported in part by the **Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant**



BUILD YOUR BABY'S BRAIN THROUGH TALK

LENA
START



Engaging Parent and Child Activities

Built in quality time for you and your baby



Expert Tips to boost brain development

Learn how to use the 14 Talking Tips with your child.



A fun and welcoming atmosphere

Meet other families while you bond with your baby.

Small Talk is a parenting class designed to help you support your baby's brain development through the power of conversation. Parents and babies will talk, play, read, and sing together, making your baby smarter and happier!

Small Talk is for all parents with babies 0-32 months old who live in Story County and is offered at no cost to families.

Upcoming Small Talk Sessions are open now

Spring Sessions
Virtual Meet-up
April 1 - June 3
Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 PM



Summer Sessions
Ames Public Library
June 9 - August 11
Mondays, 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Contact Us 515-520-8686

smalltalk@raising-readers.org

www.raising-readers.org



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

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

- April 10 & 24
 - **STARS Storytime**

RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-10:30 am
- April 12
 - **Step Into Story Books**

North Grand Mall, Ames, 10 am -1 pm
- April 19
 - **Playful Pages Family Workshop: Rain or Shine**

RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-11 am
- April 25
 - **Raising Readers 25th Birthday Celebration**

RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 3-7 pm



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

Playful Pages Family Workshops
2025

Winter
January 16 | Little Laboratory
February 16 | Building Bonanza

Spring
March 15 | Food Fest
March 20 | Bonus Spring Break
April 19 | Rain or Shine
May 17 | Inside Explorers

Summer
September 29 | Harvest Happenings
October 18 | Pet Palooza
November 16 | Dino Discoveries
December 20 | Traveling Tales

REGISTER TODAY

MYTH OR FACT

VOLUNTEERING WITH RRSC

RRSC volunteers always interact with children



At RRSC, you can choose a volunteer role that suits your interests. Some roles involve reading with students, while others, like labeling books at the office, do not require interaction with children.

Volunteer opportunities are only for adults



RRSC offers family-friendly opportunities for parents and children to volunteer together. Reach out to Hanna Bell at hannabell@raising-readers.org for more information.

You need special skills or experience to volunteer



At RRSC, many volunteer roles don't require any prior experience. For roles that do, we provide training or orientation to help you feel prepared and confident.

Volunteering requires a long term commitment



RRSC has a variety of volunteer opportunities suited for any level of commitment. If you have limited time, consider volunteering for one of our one-day events.

• JOIN RRSC ON VOME •

01

Go to <https://www.vomevolunteer.com/>
Click "Sign Up for Free"
Select "Sign up as a volunteer"

02

Fill out all of the information fields and
click "Agree and continue"

03

Check your email for a message from
Vome. Input the code they send you into
and click "Verify"

04

Log into your Vome account and go to
the left sidebar. Click "Find an
organization" and enter RRSC's
information

05

Organization Name: Raising Readers in Story
County
Address: 2801 Grand Ave, Ames, Iowa. Select it
from the dropdown list when it appears.
Select Radius: 5 km

06

Click the Raising Readers page that is
pulled up. Click "Follow" and explore
RRSC's volunteer opportunities on Vome.

Contact Us
515-520-8686

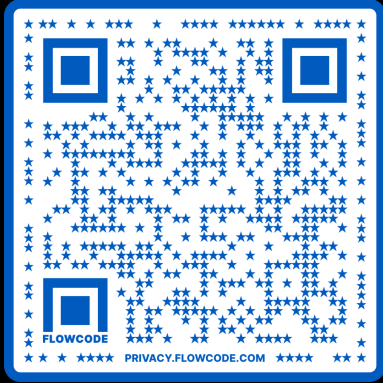
[contact@raising-
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www.raising-readers.org



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