

About Us

Register for Programs

Volunteer



RRSC Story Lines

February Brings New Opportunities

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

While winter still has a grip, Raising Readers is moving full steam ahead into our spring program season. Small Talk kicked off last month with caregiver & baby engagement sessions at our North Grand Mall office in addition to our Child Serve and virtual session offerings. Next up we launch our spring Story Pals and Reading Buddies groups beginning this month and running through April. Playful Pages workshops are also hosted each month inviting families to come play and explore together. Raising Readers is passionate about positively impacting language and literacy for the children in the community and providing program opportunities such as these is just one way we strive to build that foundation.

Recent data released by our state's department of education indicates literacy proficiency levels for Story

Support RRSC!



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

County third graders have decreased. This is a clear message that building that foundation is more critical now than ever. This news is disheartening but fuels our resolve. We continue to remind families and community members that literacy DOES NOT begin in kindergarten. Funding and providing prenatal, early childhood, and preschool opportunities is imperative and we take our role in that need seriously.

We thank you in advance for partnering with us. We are invested in the work but know it's only possible with your support. Please know your contributions, whether dollars, hours, or both, create opportunities and invest in the futures of our children.

Warm regards~

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:
Little Laboratory
Recap ~ Jan 2025

Raising Readers Presents:

VOLUNTEER HAPPENINGS

WELCOME FEST

RRSC joined ISU's Welcome Fest event at the MU to source new volunteers! Hanna and Jerri spoke with over 180 students about volunteer opportunities!



"THE MOST MEANINGFUL WAY TO SUCCEED IS TO HELP OTHERS SUCCEED" (GRANT, 2013).

NEW VOLUNTEER ROLES!

RRSC is excited to promote our new volunteer opportunities! Consider lending us a hand with social media, web design and maintenance, marketing, graphic design, etc.

Reach out to Hanna Bell at hannabell@raising-readers.org for more information about volunteer opportunities with RRSC

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ...

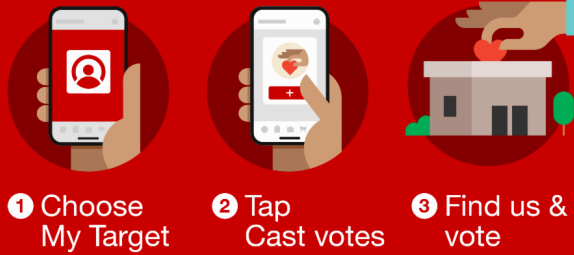
- Story Pals
- Reading Buddies
- Small Talk
- Step into Storybooks



Playful Pages little scientists engaged

Raising Readers Selected as Q1 2025 Target Circle Donation Recipient

We're a **Target Circle** participant and here's how you can vote for us.



We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign, sponsored and funded by Target. And you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to us!

Now through March 30, 2025, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divided up. Find out more about Target Circle here: www.target.com/circle

We're asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our mission to support the language and literacy development of children by providing books, caregiver support, and early childhood programs.

Don't forget, as you earn more votes, you can keep voting multiple times during the campaign! Thank you for your support, and we encourage you to share your support for us (and your thanks to Target) on social media throughout the duration of the voting!

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

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

- February 13 & 27

in hands-on activities and practiced scientific methods! Books open up new worlds and ignite curiosities in even our youngest learners!



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

- STARS Storytime

RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-10:30 am

- February 15
 - Playful Pages Family Workshop:

Building Bonanza

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

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

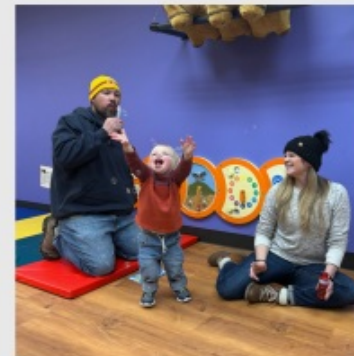


Small Talk

Winter 2025 Cohorts



For the first time, 3 Small Talk options are available to families



1 Raising Readers at North Grand

Small Talk at North Grand Mall meets on Thursday evenings in our Community space. We begin our evening with dinner and discussion.

While parents are in discussion, our little ones can sit with their family or play with our volunteers.

Then we move into station play. Stations are designed provide diverse experiences and build conversational turns.

We end the evening with a group storytime to model a Talking Tip or shared reading tip.

We partner with Iowa State Extension to facilitate meetings, and our volunteers support with childcare, stations and help with meal preparation and clean-up.

2 Childserve

Small Talk at Childserve is available to those families that attend Childserve child care. We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Childserve gym. This parent-child class runs similarily to our Raising Readers location. The biggest difference is that children will stay in their childcare room during parent discussion.

Children join us for the second half of class where we have brought stations for parents to engage with their children and practice building conversational turns in a varetly of play and learning settings. We end our evening with a group storytime

3 Virtual

The virtual option is for parents to meet on Monday evenings. We fexplore the LENA Start videos and slides together and focus on parent discussion and sharing ideas with one another.

Our virtual option also meets a week later than our in-person options to serve as a make-up location for parents as well.



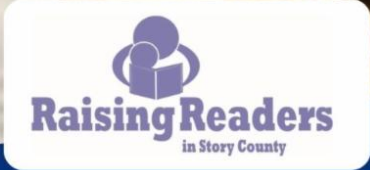
Breaking down the Numbers

3 Virtual Families

8 In-Person Parent & Child Families

- 6 families at Raising Readers
- 2 families at Childserve

Total Enrollment: 11 families



**AGE 3-5
AND THEIR
FAMILY**

Playful Pages Family Workshops



REGISTER TODAY



2025

Winter

- January 18 | Little Laboratory
- February 15 | Building Bonanza

Spring

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

Fall

- September 20 | Harvest Happenings
- October 18 | Pet Palooza
- November 15 | Dino Discoveries
- December 20 | Traveling Tales

STORY PALS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

FOUR LOCATIONS

VOLUNTEER IN AMES OR
NEVADA

READ WITH PRESCHOOLERS

TWICE A WEEK FOR 8+
WEEKS

EARN SERVICE HOURS

JOIN STORY PALS TO
FULFILL YOUR SERVICE
HOURS

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED

MUST BE 14 YEARS
OF AGE OR OLDER



JOIN RAISING READERS TODAY!



FIND YOUR VOLUNTEER PASSION AND CREATE LASTING IMPACT!

PARTICIPATE IN A READING PROGRAM

- Join Story Pals to read with preschool students twice week
- Take part in Reading Buddies to help K-2nd graders with literacy skills and encourage a love of reading
- Excellent opportunities for Health and Human Sciences majors and those seeking experience with children

STAFF OUR WELCOME DESK

- Enhance your resume by packing it with administrative skills!
 - Serve as an RRSC representative and aid us in spreading our mission
- BONUS: Volunteer at the welcome desk during quieter hours and get your homework done while making an impact!*

UTILIZE YOUR SKILLS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Looking to offer specialized skills?
- RRSC is looking for volunteers to lend us a hand with social media, web design and maintenance, marketing, graphic design, etc.
- Work with a dynamic team, help us grow, and gain hands-on experience that will make you stand out to future employers

GET INVOLVED AT OUR OFFICE LOCATION

- Sit back, relax, and put your earbuds in when you volunteer in our North Grand Mall location
- Assist with book sorting, book labeling, and various crafts



515-520-8686



[www.https://www.raising-readers.org/](https://www.raising-readers.org/)



Contact Us
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www.raising-readers.org

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