

About Us

Register for Programs

Volunteer



RRSC Story Lines

Happy New Year from Raising Readers

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

The holiday season has passed and Raising Readers now looks forward to implementing steps to meet our 2025 goals. We move into the new year excited to begin our winter family workshops, Playful Pages and Small Talk, and eager to register participants and recruit volunteers for our Story Pals and Reading Buddies programs that start up again next month. In addition, we are making plans to initiate a pilot project that involves reaching out to expectant families with baby brain-building resources to best start our smallest readers on their literacy and learning journey!

We have one more month to go with our annual fall appeal and so many of you have participated in supporting our mission. Thank you! Our 2:1 contribution matching fund was fully utilized by 12/31 as hoped but we're not done yet! We literally couldn't do the work without you and we are so

Support RRSC!



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

DONATE

appreciative. If you missed our mailing or just haven't gotten around to the task but would like to contribute, there is still time! The *DONATE* button allows various methods of online donation (credit card, Paypal, Venmo) as well as instructions for mailing checks and making tribute contributions.

Thank you for your support in 2024! We're excited to share everything we have planned to support the language and literacy of our community families in 2025!

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.



Join Our Storytime!

Fun and Engaging stories, songs and fingerplays for all young children!

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
10:00 am

Included during Storytime:

- Interactive and fun storybooks
- A mix of familiar and new songs, fingerplays and poems
- Free-Choice play area is opened afterwards.

Take home a new book to read together!

Contact Us:
raising-readers.org
515-520-8686

Raising Readers Suite 1030
North Grand Mall
Ames, IA 5010

Santa Storytime 2024



Raising Readers Selected as Q1 2025 Target Circle Donation Recipient

Storytime attendees were treated to a guest reader last month! Children left with a

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



1 Choose
My Target



2 Tap
Cast votes



3 Find us &
vote

*new book and
plush reading
buddy to celebrate
their winter
holiday. Special
thank you to John
Pohlman for
sharing his
seasonal talents!*

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 January!

- January 9 & 23
 - [STARS Storytime](#)

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

- January 9 - March 13 (Thursday evenings)
 - [Small Talk Winter Workshop](#)

RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 5-6 pm

- January 18
 - Playful Pages Family Workshop:

Little Laboratory

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

- January 23
 - ISU Welcome Fest

ISU Memorial Union, Durham Great Hall, Ames, 5:30-8 pm

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

Build your baby's brain through talk

Spend a cozy hour bonding with your little one while enriching their brain through literacy rich activities.

Join Small Talk today

It's easy, rewarding, and at no cost for all families living in Story County!*

Parent and Child Classes at Raising Readers
 Thursdays 5:00 - 6:00 pm
 January 9 - March 13, 2025
 2801 Grand Ave, Suite 1030

Local Gift Card earned at graduation from parent/child session!

*Small Talk is for families with a child between 2 - 32 months

Virtual Classes
 Mondays 6:00 - 6:45 pm
 January 13 - March 17, 2025

The first three years are a critical time in your baby's development. Give your baby that extra literacy and language boost when it matters most.

Register today to save a spot for your family!

To learn more, contact Robyn Reiersen at Smalltalk@raising-readers.org or call or text 515-520-8686

UNITED WAY
Story County

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach



**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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SMALL TALK

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- FOSTER EARLY LANGUAGE
SKILLS AND BUILD
CONFIDENCE IN
COMMUNICATION
- ASSIST THE FAMILY
LITERACY SPECIALIST WITH
STATION ACTIVITIES
- HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON
THE LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENT OF BABIES IN
STORY COUNTY
- CREATE A POSITIVE,
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
FOR LEARNING



Contact hannabell@raising-readers.org for more information

Volunteer at the RRSC WELCOME DESK



WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Promote our mission
- Share program and event details
- Welcome guests to our space in North Grand Mall

More Information

<https://www.raising-readers.org/volunteers/volunteer-opportunities>



Volunteer "book elves" at the Salvation Army Angel Tree Toy Shop, December 2024, in Ames

We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Contact us today!

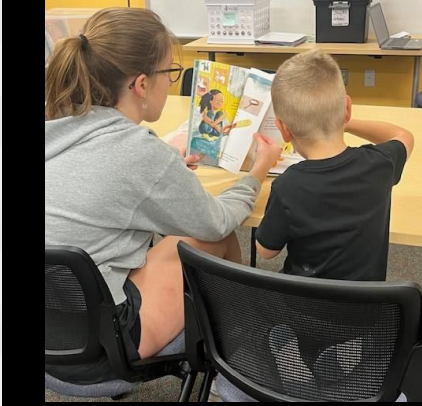


Contact Us
515-520-8686

contact@raising-readers.org

www.raising-readers.org





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Story Lines



Raising Readers In Story County | PO Box 2374 | Ames, IA 50010 US

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