



RRSC Story Lines

Literacy: The Crucial Piece of a Thoughtful, Functional Community

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

Summer sessions are in full swing at Raising Readers, and while you would think staff would have their plates full delivering impactful programs and engaging curious children in the work of literacy and language development, the reality is that we are deep into planning for the next year. As we reflect on program successes, needed expansions, and areas for improvement, we are setting both program and organizational goals, drafting the annual calendar, and planning our response to the need of our community. Because, you see, while some view our programs as "nice" community opportunities, we know that they are much more...necessary really and for some, critical.

Literacy - the ability to read and comprehend, think critically about information and sources, and communicate both in writing and verbally - is an essential function. We see recent reading assessment results indicating more discrepancy from

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

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average, more children not reaching academic benchmarks, fewer able to demonstrate the basic skills necessary to participate in a literate society. We speculate what happens if the major segment of a community is unable read well, listen, reflect, and comprehend. It's a sobering reflection.

We know our work is crucial, starting with the very youngest babies, building foundations, empowering families, and setting the stage so that our children are equipped to contribute to a thoughtful, functional community. Please join our mission - whether sending a contribution, signing up to volunteer, donating books, or spreading word of our work and helping us advocate for early literacy - it all makes a difference both now and for families in the future.

Yours in literacy~

Kristi Mayo

Executive Director

Raising Readers in Story County

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.

Summer Small Talk 2025





Small Talk Kicks off Summer at the Library!



We're excited to share that June marked the beginning of our summer Small Talk group at the Ames Public Library! With the support of our partners—Iowa State University Story County Extension and the library—we're welcoming families each Monday morning for a time of learning, playing, and growing together. This is our biggest group yet, and the energy has been incredible! Parents and little ones are joining in meaningful conversations, playful learning, and building relationships that will strengthen communication and brain development at home.

Some of our smallest Small Talkers during Talk & Play Time

A huge thank-you goes out to our amazing RRSC volunteers who help make everything run smoothly. Whether it's reading stories, entertaining little ones during parent discussions, or pitching in to set up and clean up our talk and play stations, their support has been invaluable!



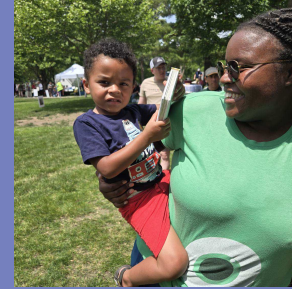
RRSC mission: To support the language and literacy of young children by providing books, caregiver guidance, and early childhood programs.

Thank you to the United Way of Story County's Golf Fore Kids grant which has allowed us to enhance our Small Talk program by adding a child-centered, facilitated play group modality that allows families to try out new language-building strategies and engage with peers in their cohort during each program session. Parents and children are learning together!



Juneteenth Fun!





RRSC Thanks First Interstate Bank

We send heartfelt appreciation to new friends at First Interstate Bank in Ames! An award to Raising Readers through their Community Grant program will support our Early Literacy Campaign Project, kicking off this summer and taking us into the next year, establishing partnerships, providing programs and resources for families in the community, and spreading the word about the power of early language and literacy.

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

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

- July 10 & 24
 - [STARS Storytime](#)

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

- July 10, 17 & 24
 - [Playful Pages Family Workshops](#)

Nevada Public Library, Nevada, 10-11 am

- July 25
 - [Zearing Days](#)

City Park, East Main St, Zearing, 6-8:30 pm

- August 8
 - [Golf Fore Kids](#)

Ames Golf & Country Club, 9:30 am - 2 pm



Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who braved the heat on Saturday, June 14 to represent RRSC at the Ames annual Juneteenth Celebration at Bandshell Park. A total of 101 books were distributed that day! Again, thank you Julie, Jerri, Lynne, Judy, Kathryn, and former board member Ellen McIntosh for your support!



A family of readers



Books for our youngest friends



Choosing books at the Raising Readers table

RRSC Volunteer Quick Facts

We have over 10 different volunteer opportunities

Family and group volunteering is available

We had over 200 volunteers between 2024 - 2025

Volunteer hours with us count toward various service requirements

Specialized volunteer roles are available for those looking to gain specific skills or enhance their resumes

Volunteers can preview roles **BEFORE** they sign up for them!



**Raising
Readers**
in Story County

Open Hours

MONDAY	10 AM-12 PM
TUESDAY	10 AM-2 PM
WEDNESDAY	12 PM-5 PM
THURSDAY	10 AM-12 PM
FRIDAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED

*Thank you to the incredible volunteers who make our open hours possible. We couldn't do it without you!

* Quick Tip *

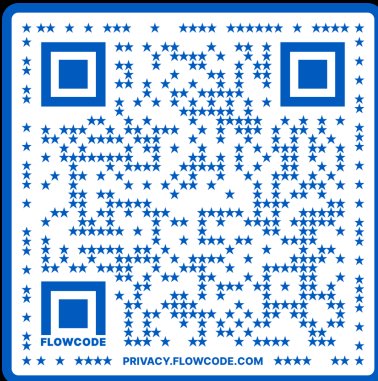
View Your Volunteer Schedule Using the Calendar Feature



If you enjoy seeing all of your upcoming volunteer activities for the month, you'll want to check out Vome's volunteer calendar. Simply go the left sidebar and click "Schedule." At the top of the schedule page is an option to alter how you view your schedule. Select "Calendar" to view your schedule on a monthly basis or choose "List" to view in chronological order as a list. You can also filter your schedule by week or day by selecting the appropriate drop down option in the right corner.



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



Contact Us
515-520-8686

contact@raising-readers.org

www.raising-readers.org

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