

About Us

Register for Programs

Volunteer



RRSC Story Lines

Annual Fall Fundraising Appeal

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

As the leaves fall and the air grows crisp, we are filled with gratitude for your continued support and partnership. It is with great excitement that we kick off the Raising Readers in Story County Annual Fall Fundraising Appeal.

Your generous contributions have already made a profound impact on the lives of children and families in our community. Thanks to you, we are able to provide free books, host engaging literacy programs, and support local initiatives that nurture a lifelong love of reading and learning.

This year our goal is to expand our reach even further. We aim to offer more program opportunities in communities throughout Story County and increase

Support RRSC!



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



outreach by establishing new community partnerships, always holding the needs of families as the priority as we endeavor to provide parents and caregivers with the necessary tools needed to foster early literacy skills at home.

These initiatives are vital to ensuring every child in Story County has the opportunity to develop the strong literacy foundation necessary for future success. Your support bridges the gap and creates a brighter future for our community. We invite you to join us once again in this important mission. Your gift, of any amount, will directly fund our programs and help us reach our goals.

You can donate securely at [Raising Readers Online Donations](#).

Thank you for believing in the right to read! Together, we can ensure that every child in Story County becomes a confident, curious, and capable reader.

Yours in literacy~

Kristi Mayo

Executive Director

Raising Readers in Story County

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

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

- November 13 & 20
 - [STARS Storytime](#)

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

- November 15
 - [Playful Pages: Dino Discoveries](#)

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

- November 18
 - [Playful Pages: Traveling Tales](#)

 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.



Children and families enjoyed the fun and festivity of Malloween held on October 29 at North Grand Mall.



- November 22
 - Cambridge Craft Fair

Cambridge Library, 9 am-2 pm



AT A GLANCE

Raising Readers

2024-2025

115

preschool children
grew their love for
books and reading in
Story Pals



85

Small Talk participants
learned to leverage the
critical age 0-3 window
for brain development.



73

Reading Buddies
practiced skills



30,812

books distributed

practiced skills
and shared
reading

to Story County
children

6,042

hours by **263
volunteers** were
contributed



4,500+

children received
books and literacy
tips at **Reach Out
and Read** well-
child visits



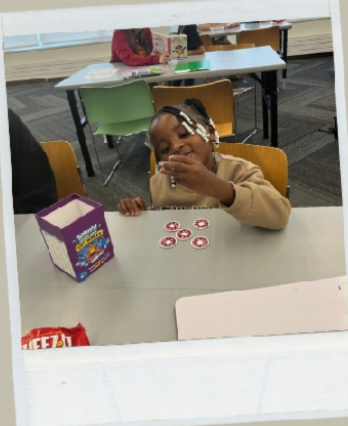
The mission of Raising Readers in Story County is to support the language and literacy development of young children by providing books, caregiver guidance, and early childhood programs.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE MALL-O-WEEN A SUCCESS!



Check out our amazing volunteers in action with [Reading Buddies](#)! They meet with their buddies twice a week to work on literacy skills and inspire a passion for reading!



SMALL TALK TALK BUILDS BABY'S BRAIN!

Take part in weekly classes to learn, connect,
and watch your baby thrive!

In-Person Class (Parents and Child)

- Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00 PM
- January 6 - March 10, 2026
- Raising Readers at North Grand Mall



Interested in a virtual option? (Parents only)

- Mondays 5:30 - 6:15 PM
- January 12 - March 16, 2026



Why Join Small Talk?

- Learn research-based practices that boost your baby's brain.
- Built-in play time with your baby!
- Explore the 14 Talking Tips in a relaxed atmosphere.
- Connect with other parents
- Dinner Provided (In-Person)
- New Books!



515-520-8686

www.raising-readers.org

smalltalk@raising-readers.org

Our Fall Small Talk program is wrapping up this month after a fun-filled 10-week session at the Nevada Public Library. This infant and toddler group especially loves playtime and anything with balls or cars is a hit! Families have been building strong communication habits, tracking reading minutes, and talking more during play and daily routines like cooking and car rides.

This winter, we're excited to offer **two new Small Talk options**. The in-person group will include weekly family meals, volunteer-provided childcare during parent discussions, and plenty of time to bond, talk, and play together! We will meet in our Little Literacy Lounge at North Grand Mall starting on Tuesday, January 6.

Additionally, we will offer a virtual option for families who prefer the convenience of joining from home. This group will begin on Monday, January 12.

* Quick Tip *

**Vome Volunteer: Forgot to Sign In?
Claim Your Volunteer Hours After!**

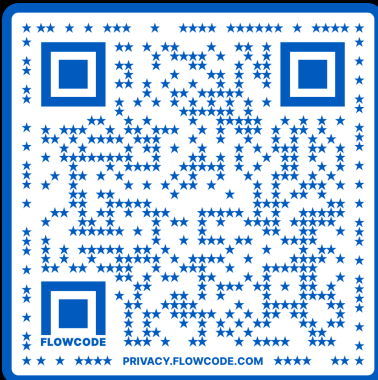


1. Log into your Vome account
2. Select "Claim Hours" located at the top of the page
3. Claim hours for a past volunteer shift in your schedule
4. Follow the prompts on Vome to claim your hours
5. Click "Send claim!" to submit your volunteer hour claim



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

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



Contact Us
515-520-8686

contact@raising-readers.org

www.raising-readers.org

Subscribe to RRSC's
Story Lines



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!