

About Us

Register for Programs

Volunteer



RRSC Story Lines

The Story Continues: Your Chance to Grow a Reader This Fall

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,

The transition from summer to fall brings both gratitude and excitement when reflecting on the past few months and anticipating the start of the new season. Summer 2025 was successful for Raising Readers, thanks to fabulous partners and the commitment of our supporters.

This summer, programs were taken to many Story County communities, engaging families and children in literacy and language building experiences. Books were distributed, exploratory play sessions were hosted, and connections were made with new families at numerous festivals and local events. Seeing a child's excitement when discovering a new

Support RRSC!



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

book is a cherished memory and a reminder of the importance of this work.

With the school year underway, preparations are being made for upcoming fall programs. This month, we are thrilled to kick off our Reading Buddies and Small Talk programs, two impactful initiatives designed to support children and families. Our Story Pals volunteer recruitment is also well underway, with training sessions scheduled to begin soon and programs launching in local preschool centers within the next month. These programs help children build the solid foundations needed for academic success with hopes of raising lifelong readers and reflective thinkers.

As the season changes, we focus, too, on growing partnerships to help us continue in our mission. Here are three ways to support the work:

- Advocate for the importance of early literacy in the community by sharing our story.
- Support financially with a gift to help purchase new books and grow our programming.
- Volunteer your time to support our in-person programs or events. With volunteer recruitment currently open, now is a great time to join our team!

Your involvement, in any form, is the heartbeat of Raising Readers. Thank you for making a difference and helping build a community of readers.

Yours in literacy~

Kristi Mayo

Executive Director

Raising Readers in Story County

DONATE

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.

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

**RRSC Partners
Throughout
Story Co ~
Summer 2025**





Baby's First MBA My Baby's Awesome Summer Small Talk Graduation



This summer seven babies and their families graduated from Small Talk, earning their MBA - "My Baby's Awesome" diploma. While the diplomas are fun, the real achievement came through as increased skills and knowledge to build strong literacy foundations for the children.



Some of those great achievements reported by the families are that they **learned more about their baby's brain development**, have found new **ways to talk more with their baby**, and they're **reading to their baby** regularly.



Up Next

Small Talk at the Nevada Public Library
September 18 - November 20, 2025
Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm
A light meal provided



Little Literacy Lounge Hours

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

*Thank you to the incredible volunteers who make the Little Literacy Lounge possible. We couldn't do it without you!

CONTACT

[HTTPS://WWW.RAISING-READERS.ORG/](https://www.raising-readers.org/)
HANNABELL@RAISING-READERS.ORG
515-520-8686



Raising Readers Back to School Events



New Fall Hours

Your invited to join us in the Little Literacy Lounge - our community read & play space in North Grand Mall! We encourage families to stop by for quiet play and shared reading. Children may choose a new FREE book each month and caregivers can learn about upcoming program and event opportunities.

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

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

- September 10
 - [ISU Club Fest & Volunteer Fair](#)
ISU Memorial Union, Ames, 11:00 am-2:00 pm
 - September 11 & 25
 - [STARS Storytime](#)
RRSC office at North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-10:30 am
 - September 19
 - [PARC Movie Night](#)
Comm Choice Cred Union, 202 E Lincoln Way, Ames 7-8 pm
 - September 20
 - [Playful Pages: Harvest Happenings](#)
RRSC office at North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-10:30 am
 - October 5
 - [St Andrew's Renaissance Faire](#)
209 Colorado St, Ames, 3-6 pm
 - Save the DATE! October 29
 - [Malloween](#)
North Grand Mall, Ames, 4:30-6:30 pm
(sensory friendly space available 4-6 pm at Raising Readers)
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-



Raising Readers partnered with local schools in Ballard, Gilbert, Ames, and Nevada to welcome children and families to the new preschool/ kindergarten year with new books and program information. Have a great school year, little readers!





Did you know? Talk builds babies' brains!

Raising Readers in Story County and the Nevada Public Library are excited to offer

Small Talk

at the Nevada public library this fall

Join us for a fun weekly class where you and your baby (age 2-32 months) can play, talk, and learn together.

Each week features:

- Brand-new toys, books, and hands-on activities
- Practical tips to boost your baby's brain through everyday talk
- A free book to take home
- Ideas to build connections and support your baby's development

This is a great opportunity to build your baby's brain-and your bond-through the power of talk.

Sign up today, space is limited



Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm
September 18 - November 20, 2025

A light meal will be served to families

Small Talk is available at no cost to all families residing in Story County with a child between the ages of 2 - 32 months.



**AGE 3-5
AND THEIR
FAMILY**



Playful Pages Family Workshops



**2025
NORTH GRAND MALL
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Fall

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

REGISTER TODAY



**RAISING READERS IN STORY
COUNTY**

NEEDS

VOLUNTEERS

READING BUDDIES VOLUNTEERS

- September 17th – November 21st
- Read with K-2nd grade in Ames or Nevada
- 2x per week between 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM
- Must be 14 years of age or older
- Pass a background check



Volunteer for **Story Pals!**

RRSC needs volunteers for our Story Pals programs in Ames! Check out the details below or scan the QR code to apply today!



Story Pals Details

October - November in Ames ✓

Read with preschoolers in the morning or afternoon ✓

1.5 hour sessions ✓

2x per week ✓

Follow Us on Social Media



Connect with us online and keep up to date with the latest RRSC happenings!



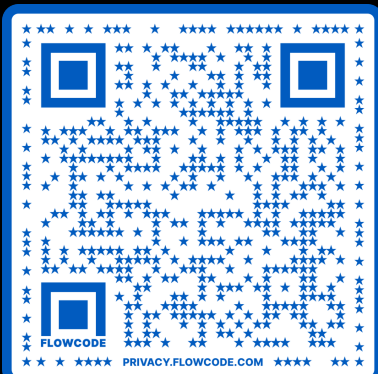
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