

About Us

Register for Programs

Volunteer



RRSC Story Lines

Literacy is a Civil Right

Dear Friends of Raising Readers,
 A common goal embedded across the continuum of programming at RRSC is to raise awareness as to the necessity of caregiver/child interactions from birth and the critical window of opportunity for brain development impacts that exists between the ages of 0 and 3 years. Additional research suggests positive, baby brain-building impacts can be made even prenatally, during the final months before birth. We have found that even some of the best-intentioned caregivers underestimate the importance of their role in fully engaging in early language and literacy practices and we aim to correct the misconceptions!

Intentional conversation, talking tips, vocabulary and language development strategies, and/or shared reading practices are modeled and promoted within the all of our RRSC program offerings. We support children and families where they are and work together to build the foundational bridges needed for future success. In a world where the daily news cycle alerts us to decisions that don't seem to make

Support RRSC!



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

DONATE

sense, particularly when taking a wider view of likely, often unfavorable outcomes, we push forward with our mission. We maintain that literacy is not only a civil right but essential to the exercise of other fundamental rights and key to shaping a child's future. We know the work is important!

Thank you in advance for partnering with us. We are invested in our mission and the families in Story County but recognize it's only possible with your support. Please know your contributions, whether volunteer hours or donation dollars, invest in the futures of children and allow us to tackle the literacy crisis starting with the youngest in our community.

In partnership~

Kristi Mayo

Executive Director

Raising Readers in Story County

VOLUNTEER WITH RAISING READERS

VOLUNTEER WITH PURPOSE

Interested in using your skills and abilities to make an impact? Join us for a specialized volunteer role!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Reach out to Hanna Bell at hannabell@raising-readers.org for more information.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Raising Readers is seeking volunteers for social media, website design, graphic design, and more. If you're eager to use your skills and passions, we'd love your help! Even if your expertise isn't listed, feel free to reach out—we welcome all talents!

*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:
Building Bonanza
Recap ~ Feb 2025**



Playful Pages little builders engaged in hands-on activities and explored the world of building! Books bring new challenges and

Target Circle Donation Final Opportunity: Voting Closes March 30!

*build the brains of
our young learners!*

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

Time's running out! Don't miss your chance to support us on Target Circle's list of featured nonprofits. Make your voice count before 03/30! Here's how:

Step 1: Choose 'My Target' in the Target app or 'Account' on Target.com

Step 2: Tap 'Cast votes'

Step 3: Find Raising Readers & enter your votes!

Find out more about Target Circle here: www.target.com/circle

EVENTS and PROGRAMS

What's next?

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

- March 13 & 27
 - **STARS Storytime**
RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-10:30 am
- March 15
 - **Playful Pages Family Workshop: Food Fest**
RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-11 am
- March 20
 - **Playful Pages Family Workshop Spring Break Special: Feathered Friends**
*Supported by Big Blue Stem Audubon Society
RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 10-11 am
- March 22
 - **Community Baby Fair**



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



****Mark Your Calendars & Save the Dates!****

- April 12
 - **Step Into Story Books**North Grand Mall, Ames, 10 am-1 pm
- April 25
 - **Raising Readers 25th Birthday Celebration**RRSC office, North Grand Mall, Ames, 3-7 pm

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

Small Talk Family Impact



What could be better than spending time with your little one? At Small Talk, parents get to laugh, play and watch their little ones do just that while also giving their baby's brain a powerful boost.



Best of all, it's fun!
These sweet moments aren't just heartwarming—they're helping your baby grow smarter everyday.





Visit Our Space in North Grand Mall!

Read!

Grab book, take a seat, and immerse yourself in another world!



Play!

Bring your children to unleash their imagination in our play zone!

Choose a Free Book!

Every child gets one free book per month



Stay updated



Check in with our welcome desk volunteers to see what's new and learn about upcoming events.

Sign Up to Volunteer!

Check out our volunteer opportunities or speak with the volunteer coordinator.



Interested in getting involved with our welcome desk opportunities? Contact Hanna Bell at hannabell@raising-readers.org

Story Pals Winter/Spring 2025 Kick Off

Our winter/spring Story Pals sessions began this month with volunteers and preschoolers at Central Elementary PreK in Nevada as well as Adventures Preschool and University Community Childcare centers in Ames. If you'd like to share your love for reading with a curious mind, please reach out to hear about our upcoming volunteer opportunities.



VOLUNTEER FOR STORY PALS

- Join Raising Readers at Ames Community Preschool Center from 8:45 AM - 10:15 AM
- Read with preschool students and help them to develop a love of reading
- Must be 14 years of age and pass a background check



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

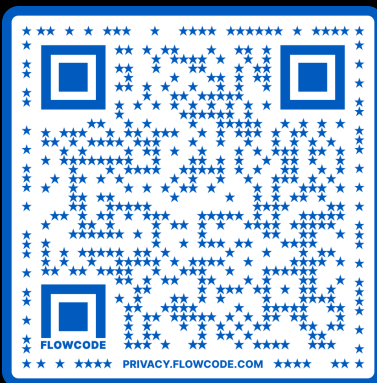
- Sit back, relax, and put your earbuds in when you volunteer in our North Grand Mall location
- Assist with book sorting, book labeling, and various crafts



515-520-8686



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



Contact Us
515-520-8686

contact@raising-readers.org

www.raising-readers.org

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Story Lines





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