

READINGPALS MENTOR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The ReadingPals early literacy program helps students establish a foundation for reading by improving vocabulary, listening skills, comprehension and visual and auditory memory.

Over 50% of children entering kindergarten in Polk County are not fully prepared for school.

Children who start behind, stay behind.

Reading at grade level is the leading indicator of academic success.

Research shows that investing in young children is the most effective way for them to succeed in school and in life.

ReadingPals is a statewide early learning initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students who may need extra help utilizing one-on-one or small group settings.

Founded by Carol and Barney Barnett in 2012, ReadingPals is managed by The Children's Movement of Florida and administered by United Ways and other community partners across the state.

United Way of Central Florida has been a ReadingPals provider since the very beginning and our goal is to continue to enhance childhood literacy for years to come.

ReadingPals volunteer for one hour, one day a week (or more) using a curriculum designed for Polk County Public Schools. Activities compliment the competencies five and six year old students need to master.

With the support of classroom teachers and United Way staff, ReadingPals volunteers will be asked to provide two weekly 30-minute back-to-back sessions during the school year. Curriculum and materials are provided by UWCF.

Volunteers interested in becoming a ReadingPal will receive training and be matched with kindergarten children in area schools who can benefit from this focused reading time. Teaching experience is not required.

**Together, we can make a difference.
Together, we can Live United.**

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