

Kids Thrive!

Literacy Buddy Project

What is Literacy Buddy?

Preschool or school-aged children in Charlotte County programs are first paired with an adult, who agrees to receive letters from a child. In turn, each volunteer sends a letter to his/her Buddy, who also receives a book based on the child's interests. These exchanges take place three times over the course of the school year.

Interactions between buddies can be done by mail, faxed, or emailed to the Literacy Advocate/ELCFH using first names only. There is also an option to write to a classroom.

Charlotte County Reads!-Kids Thrive

Collaborative Partners:

Healthy Families Charlotte



Early Learning Coalition
of Florida's Heartland, Inc.



Here's what research tells us about reading aloud to children:

- An adult reading aloud to a child is the single most important activity to building literacy skills.
- Children need to be read to frequently using a variety of texts, including storybooks, informational books, and poetry.

The 30 million word gap...

- The brain develops most during the first few years of life. Children's early experiences have a big impact on their future ability to read, write, and learn.
- The amount of different words that children hear by age 3, directly relates to how well children can read at age 9.
- Research shows that by age 3, children in more talkative families (including reading aloud) will have heard 30 million more words than those in less verbal families—a 30 million word gap!

Want to be Involved? Become a Literacy Buddy!

For more information, email

chopkins@elcfh.org or call

Carol Hopkins 941.633.9506x135



This project is modeled after a program from the Early Learning Coalitions of Southwest Florida and Sarasota County.

Funded through:





Drug Free Charlotte County is invested in Early Family Literacy, as it promotes the bond between a parent and a child. This is a key protective factor supporting the choice of teens not to use a substance in the future.

Healthy Families Charlotte



Healthy Families of Charlotte County exists to provide parent support, education, and resources to families. Through a statewide system of voluntary, community-based home visitation, Healthy Families offers parent education, coaching, screening, and referrals to reduce risks for families and improve family functioning, self-sufficiency, and access to resources, making the job of parenting easier.



United Way of Charlotte County is leading the united effort to eliminate poverty, by investing in our community in the areas of Financial Stability, Health and Wellness, and Education. Through our Bold Goal for Education, we are supporting programs, provided by our nonprofit partners, that bring us closer to ensuring that at least 70% of Charlotte County 3rd graders are reading at grade level, or beyond, by June 2022.



The **Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.** works to connect pre and postnatal women, their newborns and families, to risk appropriate resources so that birth outcomes and child growth and development are optimized. This is done through community partnerships that nurture women and families.



The **Early Learning Coalition** believes that all children should have interesting and engaging literacy materials in their homes. Many parents and primary caregivers underestimate the importance their role is in helping their children.

