

Charlotte County Reads! Literacy Buddy Project

What is Literacy Buddy?

Children in preschool and school-age programs in Charlotte County are paired with a volunteer who agrees to receive letters from a child. In turn, the volunteer sends a letter to this child; the child also receives a book based on his or her interests. These exchanges take place three times over the course of the school year.

All exchanges between buddies are done by mail, sent to the ELCFH/ Literacy Advisor and using first names only.

Charlotte County Reads!

Collaborative Partners:



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 years of life. Children's early experiences have a big impact on their future ability to learn.
- The amount of different words children hear by age 3 is directly related 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 at (941) 255-1650 x 135



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

Funded through:





Big Brothers Big Sisters' Reading Bigs is a one-to-one research-based mentoring program. Reading Bigs fosters a love of literature and aids in the development of grade-level reading skills for elementary school children reading below grade level. Each child's progress is monitored in partnership with the child's teacher. Big Brothers Big Sisters has identified achievement in reading as a strategic goal for every child to realize educational success.



The mission of the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County** is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County has been helping school age children in Charlotte County since 1997. Over the past 20 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County has been working hard to be an advocate for children in our community. The Club provides a safe, positive environment for kids to learn & grow. Academic success, a healthy lifestyle and good citizenship is stressed every day at our clubs.



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 **Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland** provides financial aid for child care services and the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program in Charlotte County. Our goal is to make sure children have access to high quality early learning programs so they can start school ready to learn!

Literacy Is A Family Affair



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

