



Matching volunteers with young learners to read for one lunch hour a week

Book Buddies brings adult volunteers into elementary schools
for one-to-one read aloud sessions with students, right in the school.

The Need

In 2009, 64% of low-income 4th grade students in Dutchess County passed the English exam, compared to 85% of all other fourth-graders.



School districts facing the most challenges:

Poughkeepsie (54%)	Spackenkill (67%)
Northeast (61%)	Beacon (70%)
Hyde Park (61%)	Pawling (71%)
Pine Plains (65%)	

Of 50 kindergartners struggling to learn to read in kindergarten, 44 will still be struggling in 3rd grade³. Since children are reading *to learn* after 4th grade, struggling readers fall further and further behind. They “check out” in middle school, and drop out of high school.

³ United Way Worldwide-“Education Strategies: Improving Success for Children & Youth” 2010

The Program

School-based, volunteer read-aloud programs are proven to work! They help at-risk students improve or maintain their reading proficiency, reading-related skills and habits, reading motivation, attitude toward reading and reading for enjoyment.¹

Twice as many students who participate in these programs improve their **academic performance** compared to those who don’t. (25% vs. 12% in the control group)²

55% **enjoy reading** (31%)²

16% improved their **classroom behavior** (3%)²

33% had improved **attention spans** (24%)²

86% report good **self-esteem** (78%)²

¹ WITS Report (Working in the Schools-October 2005)

² U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Planning and Evaluation study-1999 school year



The Support

“...we can’t place the entire burden on schools. We need to take a whole child and whole community approach... you can’t bring about real change unless organizations and leaders create pathways for everyday people to act and make a real difference together.”

- Sterling Speirn, President & CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation



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