



PAWS FOR READING



An associate program of:



The PAWS  FOR READING program improves children's reading and communication skills by employing a powerful method: reading to a dog. But not just any dog.

PAWS  FOR READING is a registered affiliate of the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs®) program. R.E.A.D. dogs are registered therapy animals who volunteer with their owner/handlers as a team, going to schools, libraries, and many other settings as reading companions for children.

Braintree, Brookfield, Randolph
Vermont



What? Dogs Can't Read!

Of course they can't. But they can be great listeners. And their presence creates an inviting and motivating environment:

- relaxed
- comfortable
- safe
- non-judgmental
- empowering, and
- fun!

R.E.A.D. has received worldwide media attention

More than 80 articles have been published about the R.E.A.D. program, including in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *Parenting* - and R.E.A.D. has been featured on national television (*Animal Planet* and the *Westminster Dog Show*).



But Why Dogs?

Animals are ideal reading companions because they:

- help increase relaxation and lower blood pressure
- listen attentively
- do not judge, laugh, or criticize
- allow children to proceed at their own pace



When a R.E.A.D. dog is listening, a child's dread is replaced by eager anticipation and learning occurs. The handler is a skilled facilitator, too - shifting performance pressure off the child and providing support. The child gets the supervised reading practice necessary to build vocabulary, increase understanding, and gain fluency as a reader.

The Results Are Significant

Participating kids make enormous strides in reading and communication skills while building self-esteem, confidence, and social skills. And there are additional benefits - performance in other subjects tends to improve, as does attendance and even personal hygiene.

What Others Say

"When children read to dogs, the experience is just magical - there's no other way to describe it."

*-Dana Tumpowsky
Director of Public Relations,
Salt Lake City Library*

"When my son started reading to Buddy...I started to notice how excited he was about reading, how he talked about it, and about the dog, all the time, and how the excitement and interest in reading carried over, even when the dog wasn't there."

*-Keegan's dad
Twin Falls, Idaho*

To participate or for more information, please contact:

Karen Odatō

karen.odato@dartmouth.edu

OSSU Superintendent's Office

728-5052

www.orangesw.k12.vt.us

We are associated with:

Therapy Dogs of Vermont

<http://www.therapydogs.org>

Reading Education Assistance Dogs

<http://www.therapyanimals.org/read/index.php>



Reading Education Assistance Dogs® and R.E.A.D.® are registered service marks of Intermountain Therapy Animals. All rights reserved.