



ReadingPals Volunteer Application

Date: _____



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Reading Pals mentor through Uplift Literacy. Helping children reach their full potential through mentorship and early literacy skills is a powerful way to give back to the community.

About ReadingPals

ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from pre-k to 3rd grade who may need extra help, utilizing one-on-one or small group settings. ReadingPals offers volunteers an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with young children, while helping them improve their social-emotional development and early literacy skills. ReadingPals is managed by The Children’s Movement of Florida and administered through 15 United Ways/supporting agencies -- with the help of numerous community partners across the state. ReadingPals is made possible through the generosity of the Barnett family – with the support of The Children’s Movement of Florida, United Ways, Women United, local school districts, Early Learning Coalitions, Children’s Services Councils, local libraries, and many others.

Three Pillars – Goals of ReadingPals

1. **Mentoring:** To build genuine, impactful relationships between students and our volunteer mentors.
2. **Early Literacy:** To guide and reinforce students’ love of reading and build early literacy skills.
3. **Social-Emotional Development:** To help students build a strong social-emotional foundation through self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

Volunteer Contact Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Date Year

Phone # Cell _____ Phone # Home/office _____

Email: _____

The Children’s Movement Communications:
ReadingPals was designed by and is currently managed by The Children’s Movement of Florida - a nonprofit, nonpartisan movement of Floridians advocating for high-quality early learning opportunities, access to children’s health care, and parent support programs. Through your volunteer experience, you will see firsthand the importance of high-quality early education and why The Movement wants to give our youngest Floridians a strong start. Unless you "opt out," you will receive updates directly from The Movement on statewide ReadingPals efforts and what is happening in the area of early education in Florida.
I opt out:

Address: _____

Street, City, State, Zip

Are you Bilingual? Yes No If yes, what language(s)? _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

Health conditions or accommodations we need to be aware of: _____

Employment/School/Affiliation

___ Retired ___ Employed ___ Student ___ Other: _____

Employer/School/Affiliation: _____ Position: _____

ReadingPals Volunteer Availability

ReadingPals Volunteer Status: ___ Returning (I've been a ReadingPal before.) ___ New (This is my first time as a ReadingPal.)

Preferred Day(s): ___ Monday ___ Tuesday ___ Wednesday ___ Thursday ___ Friday

Preferred Times: _____

How did you hear about the ReadingPals program?

ReadingPals Program Letter of Commitment

Uplift Literacy will:

1. Provide specialized training to all volunteers initially & quarterly to meet the program's needs.
2. Provide all materials for the lessons that accompany the curriculum.
3. Take precaution to provide a safe working environment.
4. Provide background screenings to all volunteers.
5. Provide ongoing updates and communication to the volunteers.

Reading Pals Volunteer will:

1. Attend initial mandatory volunteer training (additional training sessions are optional).
2. Observe rules of the Miami-Dade County Public School System.
3. Respect the confidentiality of students and staff.
4. Check in and out with the school's front desk personnel to assure accurate documentation.
5. Commit to their volunteer role for the duration of the school year.
6. Contact us, in advance, when possible, if unable to volunteer to allow for substitute scheduling.

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

Please select all additional volunteer opportunities below with which you would be interested in being involved.

___ Free Book Distribution Program ___ Special Events ___ Family engagement activities ___ Info table at events.
___ Organizing a book drive ___ ReadingPals volunteer recruitment

Volunteer Waiver & Releases

Hold Harmless Agreement

As a participant in the Reading Pals volunteer program offered by Uplift Literacy, I hereby give up all my rights to sue or make any claim for damages due to negligence or any other reason what so ever against Uplift Literacy, sponsors and all other persons, participants or organizations conducting or connected with Uplift Literacy for injury to property or person I may suffer, including crippling injury or death, while participating in the event and while upon event premises. I know the risks of danger to myself and my property while preparing for and participating in volunteer work and while upon the premises and, relying upon my own judgment and ability, assume all such risks of loss.

Initials

Agreement and Signature

By signing this form, I understand that I waive ANY liability claims with Uplift Literacy for any incident incurred during (and in the capacity of) my volunteer work as a Reading Pals mentor.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

A background check will be conducted on ALL volunteers assisting with Reading Pals Uplift Literacy

I hereby authorize Uplift Literacy to check any and all records pertaining to criminal convictions, and for any law enforcement agency to release information regarding convictions under Florida statutes or statues of other jurisdiction.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____