



**IMPACT
REPORT
2024-2025**

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

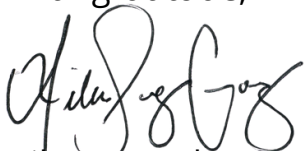
During the 2024–2025 school year, we worked alongside children, families, educators, volunteers, and community partners across Miami-Dade to help more young learners build strong literacy foundations and grow as readers.

As an educator, I've seen how becoming a reader can change everything for a child—their confidence, opportunities, and what they believe is possible. That's why this work matters so deeply to me.

This year, **we supported 1,032 children, engaged 690 parents and caregivers, and trained 158 preschool teachers in strategies that strengthen early literacy. We also placed 3,926 books into the hands of young readers.** Behind each of these numbers is a child gaining self-assurance, a family building new reading habits, and a community showing up for its children.

Every child deserves that opportunity. We are deeply grateful to everyone who makes this work possible. Because of your support, more children are building strong reading foundations early, setting them on a path toward long-term success.

With gratitude,



Aileen Sanchez Gonzalez



ABOUT US

Uplift Literacy works to close the literacy gap and empower children to reach their full potential through the power of reading. Our mission is to maximize lifelong success for children by improving their reading proficiency – at school, at home, and in their communities.

We focus on the early years, when reading foundations are built, because early intervention has the greatest potential to change long-term outcomes.



WHY IT MATTERS

The moment a child falls behind in reading can change the trajectory of their education and their future.

- 40% of Miami-Dade County 3rd graders are not reading on grade level, putting thousands of children at risk early in their academic journey.
- Reading on grade level by 3rd grade is a critical milestone. Students who are not proficient by this point are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school.
- Without early intervention, reading gaps widen over time, becoming significantly more difficult and more costly to close later.
- Early literacy is strongly linked to long-term outcomes, including graduation rates, career opportunities, and economic mobility.
- Children who have access to books and are read to regularly are significantly more likely to succeed academically, yet many families lack consistent access to books at home.
- Summer learning loss disproportionately impacts underserved students, contributing to widening reading gaps by 3rd grade.
- Families want to support their children, but often lack access to simple, research-based strategies, highlighting the need for community-based solutions.



OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

Over the past year, Uplift Literacy has expanded its reach and deepened its impact across Miami-Dade County, helping children build the literacy foundation they need to thrive in school and beyond.



IN THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR ALONE, UPLIFT LITERACY REACHED:

1,032

**CHILDREN
REACHED**

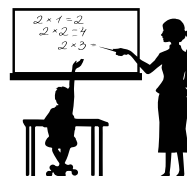


690

**PARENTS &
CAREGIVERS
ENGAGED**

158

**EDUCATORS
TRAINED**



3,926
**BOOKS
DISTRIBUTED**

OUR APPROACH

We provide children, families, and preschool teachers with essential literacy support, mentorship, and access to books. We work to foster a love of reading, build foundational skills, and ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to thrive academically and personally. Our programs not only empower children but also strengthen our entire community.

WHAT WE DO

We support children in developing critical early reading skills while empowering the adults and community around them to reinforce learning every day.



HOW WE DO IT

Our work is grounded in the science of reading and delivered through free, high-impact initiatives designed to create lasting change.



READINGPALS

Trained volunteer mentors provide consistent, small-group or one-on-one literacy support to students.

PAGES WITH PARENTS

Through workshops and storytime experiences, caregivers learn practical strategies to build consistent reading routines at home, while children develop a lasting connection to books and reading.

BOOKS AROUND TOWN

Community book nooks expand access to diverse, engaging books in neighborhoods with limited access, helping make reading a visible and accessible part of everyday life.

READY, SET, GO MIAMI

In partnership with the Miami-Dade Grade-Level Reading Campaign and hosted by The Children's Trust, this initiative supports families, educators, and community partners with the tools, training, and resources to develop and foster children's early literacy skills.



UPLIFT SUMMER READERS

Designed to prevent summer learning loss, this program brings literacy enrichment directly into summer camps through engaging activities, books, and small-group support.

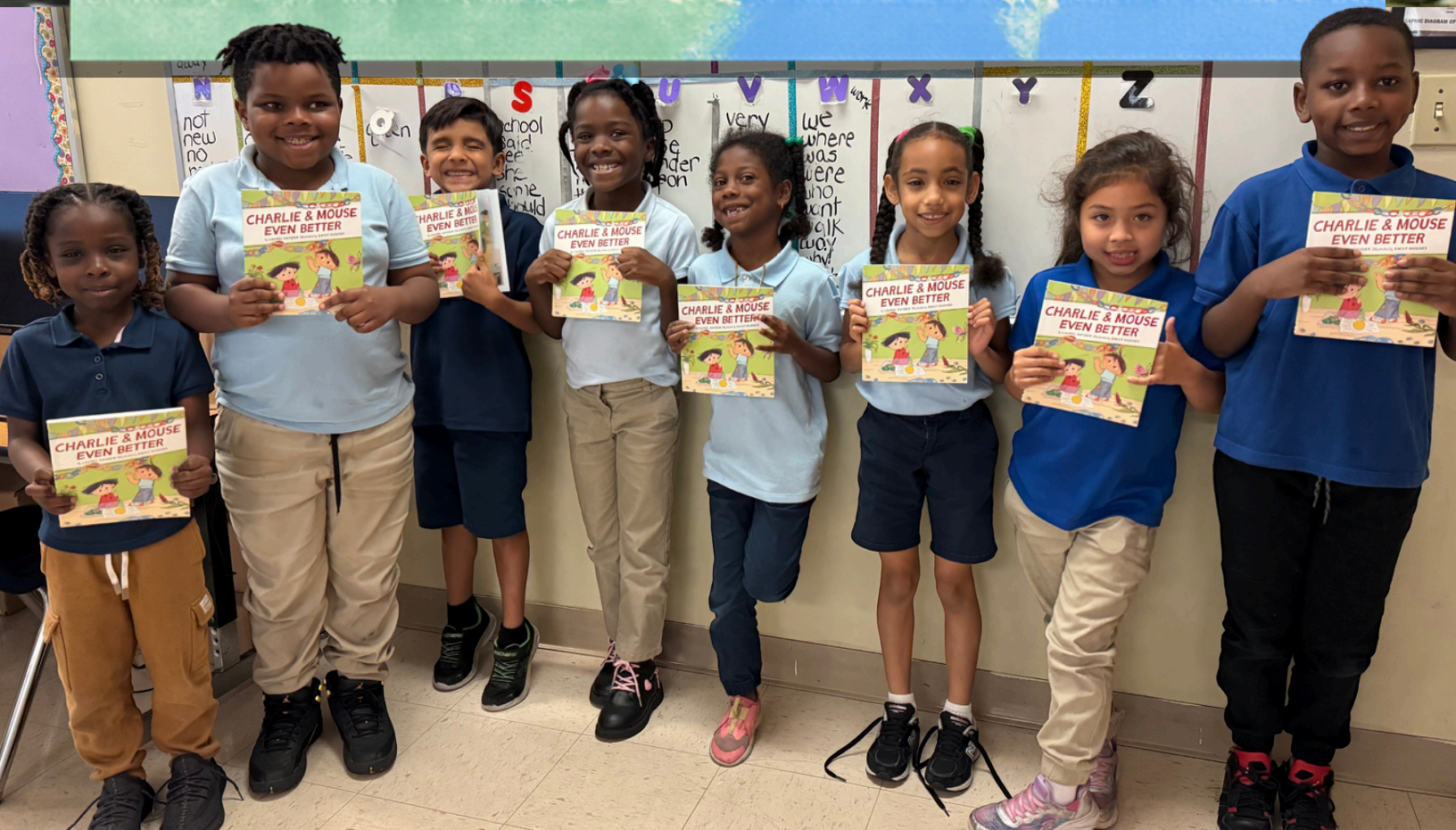


WHY IT WORKS

Research consistently shows that children make the greatest gains when literacy support is consistent and reinforced across settings. By connecting schools, families, and communities, our model not only improves outcomes for the children we directly serve, it strengthens the adults and systems around them, extending our impact far beyond each program.

OUR REACH ACROSS MIAMI-DADE

- Allapattah
- Aventura
- Coconut Grove
- Coral Gables
- Cutler Bay
- Downtown Miami
- Hialeah
- Hialeah Gardens
- Homestead
- Kendall
- Little Haiti
- Little Havana
- Miami Beach
- Miami Gardens
- North Bay Village
- North Miami
- Overtown
- Palmetto Bay
- Richmond Heights
- South Miami
- Westchester
- Westview
- West Little River
- West Perrine

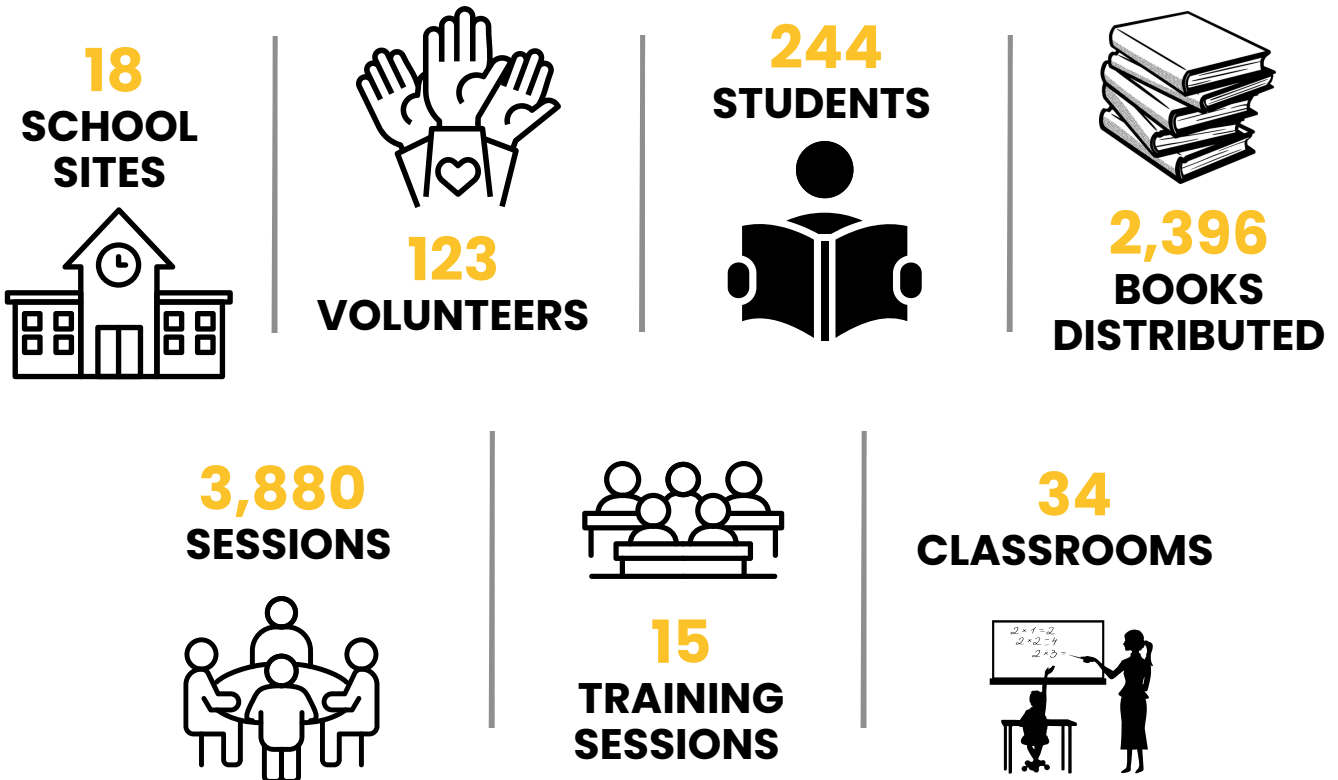




READINGPALS

ReadingPals pairs trained volunteer mentors with students in Pre-K through 3rd grade who are struggling with reading or at risk of falling behind. Through consistent, relationship-based support grounded in the science of reading, volunteers help students build foundational literacy skills while strengthening confidence and engagement in learning.

IMPACT DATA





STUDENT ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Across our ReadingPals program, students demonstrated significant growth in foundational literacy skills based on pre- and post- assessments.

On average, students showed a:

69.11%

INCREASE IN LETTER
NAME RECOGNITION

136.10%

INCREASE IN
PHONICS SKILLS

127.67%

INCREASE IN
ORAL READING FLUENCY



These results reflect the power of consistent, targeted literacy support in helping children become confident, capable readers.

100% of school liaisons reported seeing an increase in students' enthusiasm and motivation in reading since implementing the ReadingPals program.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE DATA

“Ethan struggled with recognizing his letters at the beginning of the year, which took a hit to his confidence. Now, he is so confident and even helps his little sister with pointing out what certain words begin with. Uplift literacy truly helped our little boy excel this year and prepared him for Kindergarten!”

-Jaclyn Wethy, Little Wonders Learning Academy & Preschool

“Students have improved in letter recognition, and phonemic awareness.”

-Karen Valdivieso, Pre-K Teacher, Treasure Island Elementary

“ReadingPals has greatly improved my students’ enthusiasm and interest in reading. They LOVE ReadingPals.”

-Emma Pitcairn, 1st Grade ELA Teacher, Miami Beach Fienberg Fisher K8

“One of the greatest strengths of the Reading Pals program is the individualized attention it provides to students. The one-on-one support helps build confidence, improve comprehension, and foster a love for reading. Students show noticeable growth in their literacy skills, and their enthusiasm for books increases significantly.”

-Little Wonders Learning Academy & Preschool





PAGES WITH PARENTS

Our family engagement events connect families to community resources and equip them with simple, practical strategies to support literacy at home. Through workshops and storytime experiences, caregivers learn the foundations of early literacy and how to build consistent reading routines, while children develop a love of reading.

IMPACT DATA



690
ADULTS



738
CHILDREN



1,530
BOOKS
DISTRIBUTED



23
TABLING
EVENTS

- **158** preschool teachers trained to strengthen early literacy in their classrooms and lead workshops for families, extending literacy support to hundreds of additional children beyond those directly served.



- **29** family engagement workshops and storytime events



STORIES OF IMPACT

100% of parents surveyed reported increased daily reading time with their children after attending a workshop.

100% said they would recommend the program to other families.



“I’m so grateful for the opportunity to attend this free workshop! It was incredibly beneficial, not only did it provide practical and easy-to-use reading strategies for parents, but it was also fun and educational for the children.”

- **Lisnay Mena**

“The free books and activity worksheet has helped my daughter with reading.”

- **Mayra Martinez**

“Es una actividad muy enriquecedora para poder aprender como estimular a nuestros hijos es un recurso muy importante ya que a veces no sabemos cómo enseñar en casa y estos eventos apoyan de forma gratuita y creativa.”

- **Cindy Pavon**

“The free literacy workshop and storytime event was such a great experience for us. My child was so engaged and left excited about reading! I loved learning simple tips to support literacy at home. It was fun, helpful, and really made a difference. I’d definitely recommend it to other families!”

- **Tiffanie Jackson**





OUR TEAM:

Aileen Sanchez Gonzalez, Executive Director

Pooja Patel, ReadingPals Program Director

Natalie Granda, Programs Coordinator

Chelsea Del Collado, Director of Family &
Community Engagement

Erica Dewsbury, Reading Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2024–2025):

David Lawrence, Jr., Advisory Board Member

David Heard, Board Chair

Paola Stefan, Vice Chair

Alfredo Reynoso, Treasurer

Katarina Bromberg Segal, Secretary

Dinah Gay-Dorvil, Board Member

Cristian Padilla, Board Member

Lisa Heller-Green, Board Member

Patricia Langer, Board Member

GET INVOLVED

JOIN US IN MAKING
A DIFFERENCE IN
THE LIVES OF
YOUNG READERS!

VOLUNTEER

Become a ReadingPals mentor or help at our family engagement events.

Your time and dedication can make a lasting impact on a child's life.

SPREAD THE WORD

Share our mission with your network and encourage others to join our cause.

STAY INFORMED

Keep up with our latest news, events, and impactful stories by signing up for our newsletter or following us on social media @upliftliteracymiami

Did you know that Uplift Literacy also provides a newsletter for parents with valuable tips and resources to enhance children's literacy at home, plus updates on upcoming events? [Sign up here!](#)



READINGPALS

SPOTLIGHT:

Watch our ReadingPals spotlight video to get a glimpse of how we're helping young readers build confidence, improve their literacy skills, and fall in love with books!



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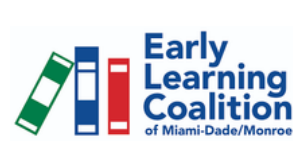
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 UpliftLiteracy

SCAN ME



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



UPLIFT LITERACY IS ALSO A REGIONAL PARTNER WITH THE NEW WORLDS READING INITIATIVE, FLORIDA'S FREE BOOK DELIVERY PROGRAM THAT SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN STRENGTHENING LITERACY SKILLS, BUILDING READING CONFIDENCE, AND ENCOURAGING A LIFELONG LOVE OF READING.