

# **“Reading Buddies”**

## **Preschool Reading Program**

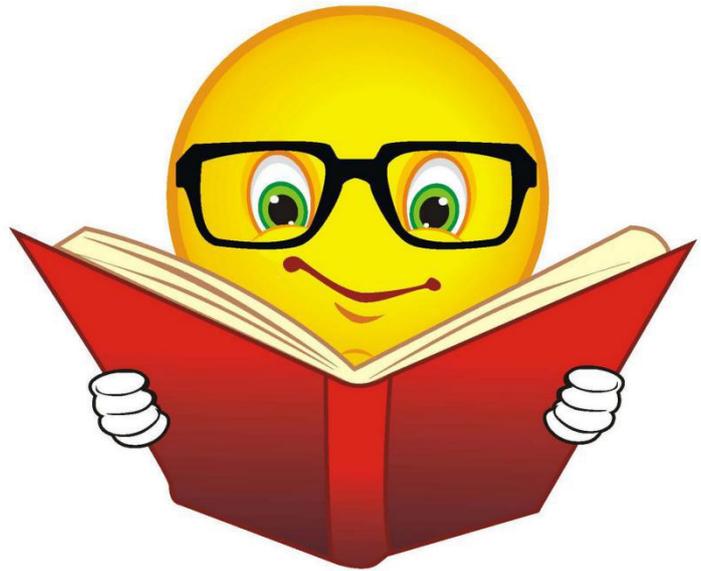


The Heights Foundation and their dedicated volunteers are working with Gladiolus Learning and Development Center's preschool-age children to help prepare them for success in Kindergarten. Approximately 90% of the students enrolled in the preschool are from the Harlem Heights neighborhood, and many do not speak English in their homes. This exciting program is open to all of the Pre-K children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall.

### **Volunteers are needed, can you help?**

- Volunteer **“Reading Buddies”** will work in groups of two, to provide consistency and support for one another
- Volunteers must be willing to commit at least one hour per week (More would be even better!)
- Times are available in morning or afternoon sessions (morning preferred)
- Reading Buddies will work with small groups of up to four students
- A background in teaching/early education is not necessary. (We love professional teachers, but we can all be one!)

# About Our Program



- Volunteers help to build early literacy skills and language ability. Letter names and sounds are emphasized along with word families
- Using Reading for Fun, in addition to the Phonemic Awareness curriculum, Reading Buddies are needed to read to classes of preschoolers.
- Listening to language, rhythms and rhymes are important skills in developing oral vocabulary (and it's fun!) Books from the library, or treasured children's classics, are sure to be a hit. Titles will be suggested for these reading sessions.
- Craft activities and themes allow students to use expressive language and develop their English skills.
- We are committed to supporting families of GLAD students every step of the way, **and your partnership will make us successful.**

# **“Reading Buddies”**

## **Additional Information**

### **Harlem Heights**

Harlem Heights was originally settled as an agricultural community. Approximately 1,200 children live in the neighborhood. More than one in three children in Harlem Heights are living in poverty, which is a rate that is 100% greater than the county average.

### **The Heights Foundation**

The mission of The Heights Foundation is to provide life-changing opportunities for the children and adults of the Harlem Heights community. The foundation is a grassroots, hands-on organization devoted to family and community development and the celebration of the culture and strengths of the families in the neighborhood. Its work supports community development programs for individuals, students, and families, and provides charitable outreach projects in the community.

### **Gladiolus Learning and Development Center**

Gladiolus Learning and Development Center is located at 10320 Gladiolus Drive, at the intersection of Gladiolus and Hagie Drive. The center is a resource for infants, preschoolers, and older children after school.

### **Scheduling**

Volunteers are critical to this project! Your time and talents are a great resource, and we appreciate your interest in this project. We will work to fit schedules and interests with program needs.

### **Background checks**

Background checks are conducted to ensure the safety of all participants.

### **Your impact**

Research indicates that early success in reading is magnified over time, yet children unable to read well are at a disadvantage in later years. Only 10% of struggling first grade readers ever read proficiently. Limited exposure to language and reading can be a challenge for preschoolers of low-income homes. Your gift of reading to preschool children can help close the gap.