

## Attendance Policies

- A parent or caregiver must remain in the library during the session.
- We ask that your child make a commitment to attend ALL (or almost all) of the scheduled meetings. Notify the coordinator and your child's Big Buddy in advance if your child will be absent.
- If your child will need to miss more than two meetings, please consider signing up for the spring term instead.
- Please arrive on time—or your child's Big Buddy may be sent home or reassigned to another Little Buddy for the day!

**Questions?** Please contact  
Sarah, Reading Buddies Coordinator  
303-665-5200  
sarahd@cityoflafayette.com



Visit the Reading Buddies home page:  
<http://www.cityoflafayette.com/readingbuddies>  
"Friend" Reading Buddies on Facebook  
and follow us on Pinterest!!



## When can my child become a Big Buddy?

Even after your child is too old to be a Little Buddy, we hope you'll keep in touch! Try our summer Writing Buddies for 4th-6th graders, featuring creative writing with high school mentors. Rising 7th through 12th graders may apply to become Big Buddies. (Especially mature 6th graders may serve as Big-Buddies-in-Training.)

Please encourage your child's friends and neighbors to participate in Reading Buddies, and be sure to let their teachers know about this free program!

Lafayette Public Library

775 West Baseline Road

Lafayette, CO 80026

303-665-5200

[www.cityoflafayette.com/library](http://www.cityoflafayette.com/library)



*"It was great that my daughter was able to read with someone other than just her mom and dad. It empowered her."*  
—parent of Little Buddy

# Little Buddy Application

(students in grades 1-3)

**Today a reader,  
Tomorrow a leader,**  
—Margaret Fuller,



**Reading Buddies Program  
Lafayette Public Library**

**Fall 2013**

## What is Reading Buddies?

**Reading Buddies is:** a free program that pairs trained teen volunteers with younger kids one-on-one once a week for 45 minutes of shared reading and literacy games followed by 15 minutes of group reading-related activities.

Reading Buddies is designed to give your child **extra reading practice with a caring teen mentor** and to make the reading experience fun.

*"He's awesome!"*

*—Little Buddy, about his Big Buddy*

**Reading Buddies is NOT:** a tutoring service for your child. Teen Reading Buddy volunteers are not trained or expected to correct learning problems or to teach your child to read.

## Who can participate?

- Students in grades 1-3 in the fall are eligible.
- Students must be able to **attend all—or almost all—of the meetings.**
- Students' parent or guardian must remain in the library during the meetings.
- Applications are accepted on a **first-come, first-serve** basis; priority will be given to residents of Lafayette and students who attend Lafayette schools.

## Tell me more!

### Who are the Big Buddies?

Students in grades 7-12 volunteer to be Reading Buddies. Typically, they are teens who love reading, enjoy working with younger children, and want to give back to their community. They receive training before and during the program.

### What do the Buddies do?

- Your child and his/her Buddy will take turns reading aloud.
- They talk about their books and do activities connected to the material.
- They might also play some reading games.
- During the last 15 minutes of each meeting, all Buddy pairs get together for a group literacy activity like a library scavenger hunt.
- On the last day, the Buddies will present a group project such as a play or quiz show.



### In what language(s) do the Buddies read and speak?

We'll try to match up Buddies to read in either English or Spanish or both — whichever language they need or want to practice. Occasionally, we have Big Buddies who speak other languages, such as Japanese or French.

## How do I sign my child up to be a Little Buddy?

- Complete the enclosed application (also available in the library and online in English and Spanish: [www.cityoflafayette.com/readingbuddies](http://www.cityoflafayette.com/readingbuddies)).
- Select which session(s) your child is available to attend:
  - Mondays 4:00-5:00**, 9/16 - 11/18 (no meeting on 11/11)
  - Tuesdays 4:00-5:00**, 9/17 - 11/19
  - Saturdays 10:15-11:15**, 9/21 - 11/16
- Submit the application to have your child matched with a Reading Buddy no later than **Tuesday, Sept. 10**. Apply early!
- Plan to join us on the last day of each session! The Buddies will present a group project for their families. We will also have a short ceremony for Big Buddy volunteers and their Little Buddies.

*"Reading Buddies has made such a positive impact on my son and has helped him realize how much FUN! reading can be. It is nice to have an older role model and friend for him. I can hear them laughing from across the library! On top of all that, Reading Buddies is a free program!"*

*—parent of Little Buddy*