

## 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 two or more meetings, please consider signing up for the fall 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  
303-661-1180  
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-7th graders, where young creative writers collaborate with high school mentors. Rising 7th through 12th graders may apply to become Big Buddies.

Please encourage your child's friends and neighbors to participate in Reading Buddies--and 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)



*"I think my son's Big Buddy was a great mentor/summer friend. It was a connection that went beyond just reading."  
--Parent of Little Buddy*

# Little Buddy Application (rising 1st-3rd graders)

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



**Reading Buddies Program  
Lafayette Public Library**

## FALL 2014

## 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.

*"She's nice and funny and listens to me!" —Little Buddy, about her BB*

**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 who will be in grades 1-3 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.

*"Before Reading Buddies this summer, she didn't like to read, but now she wants to read a lot. One night at bedtime, we stopped reading and she screamed, 'No! I want to read!'"*

*--Parent of a Little Buddy,*

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

All the Big Buddies read and speak English; some can help their Little Buddies read in Spanish. Occasionally we have Big Buddies who are fluent in other languages as well.

## 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**, Sept. 15-Nov. 17 (no meeting Oct. 13)
  - Tuesdays 4:00-5:00**, Sept. 16-Nov. 18 (no meeting Nov. 11)
  - Saturdays 10:15-11:15**, Sept. 20-Nov. 15
- Submit the application to have your child matched with a Reading Buddy no later than **September 6, 2014**. Apply early!
- Plan to join us on the last day of each session! The Buddies will present a group project for their families.