

Volunteer to read to kids!

When you share the joy of reading with young children, you not only enrich their language and literacy skills, you have an opportunity to bond with them and teach them a variety of other cognitive and social skills. Most importantly, you inspire them to become lifelong learners.

United Way of King County (UWKC) knows that children who enter kindergarten eager to learn are more likely to succeed in school and, later, in life. Right now we need volunteers to read aloud to young children, one-on-one and in small groups, throughout King County—in preschools, Head Start classrooms, and child care centers—so that they can enter kindergarten prepared to thrive.

Time Commitment

- For a minimum of six months, you will go to a designated, supervised site and read to children one-on-one and/or in small groups.
- You must be able to commit 1 hour per week, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Specific days and times will vary based on each volunteer's availability and each site's specific needs.
- You must attend a one-hour orientation before going to your site.

Qualifications & Requirements

Absolutely must:

- enjoy young, wiggly children.
- be able to make silly sounds and faces.
- love to read.
- be on time.
- jump through our hoops (complete an application form and undergo a Washington State Patrol background check and receive a TB test or provide proof of having had one).

Would be great if you:

- have a big, friendly smile and can laugh when things go wrong.
- are not easily offended by outspoken preschoolers.
- can redirect unpleasant behavior in a gentle, nonjudgmental way.
- don't mind reading favorite books over, and over, and over again.
- speak English and another language, preferably: Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, Korean, Samoan, Chinese, or Russian.
- spread the word about the importance of reading to kids!

Benefits

- United Way of King County will provide program orientation and training.
- We will offer periodic educational opportunities on a variety of topics related to early learning.
- We will connect you with a volunteer coordinator who will work with our staff at United Way and the various child care centers to ensure your success.
- You will experience the joy of learning through a child's eyes.
- You will connect with a community and gain new friends and a sense of belonging.
- You will develop new skills and confidence.
- You will feel good about yourself and have fun!
- The children you help will be better prepared to succeed in school.

Sign up today!

To volunteer or request more information, please contact Mandy Lehigh, Volunteer Recruiter at United Way of King County, at 206.461.5017 or mlehigh@uwkc.org.