

# Book Buddies Program



## Program History

The Book Buddies Program began in 1994 by the Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library to support children to develop an interest in reading. In 1998, with the support of the University of Pacific, the program was sponsored by the Gladys L. Benerd School of Education and coordinated by Peggy Rosson. It has evolved into a thriving reading mentor program and is currently coordinated by Dr. Ann Go. Since Fall 2006, the Book Buddies Program was endowed by Kristy and Steve Goulart, with a mission to expand our outreach effort to serve more children in our community.

The Book Buddies Program is a reading mentor program that focuses on the literacy development of primary grade children in the community. Children are matched with University of the Pacific reading mentors in the Benerd School of Education. The “Book Buddies” meet one-on-one for one hour per week in the “Book Buddies Corner,” a designated area in the lobby of the Benerd School of Education. The corner is decorated with beautiful garden theme wallpaper, comfortable ottomans and benches, soft pillows and stools, stuffed animals and puppets, and an area rug where children and their mentors can spread out and enjoy reading in a pleasant and relaxed environment.

The mentors are mostly prospective teachers who are studying for their teaching credentials. They are taking courses in education and literacy instruction and have received training by faculty members in Benerd School of Education on reading mentorship. The mentors work with their Buddies throughout the semester developing a reading mentor relationship that fosters children’s interest in reading.

The Book Buddies Program has collected a variety of children’s books that include a wide-range of selections and genres – fiction, non-fiction, chapter books, picture books, poetry, and multicultural children’s literature.

## Contact Information

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## Program Assistants:

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## Program Activities

During the weekly sessions, the mentors and their Buddies engage in various reading activities. For example, the reading mentor reads aloud to the child and the child is encouraged to practice reading aloud to the mentor. After reading, the reading mentor and the child engage in literacy-based activities to develop reading comprehension skills. Some of these activities include drawing favorite pictures of the stories, using graphic organizers to summarize the stories, making flash cards on vocabulary words, playing reading comprehension board games and word games, using hand and finger puppets to retell stories, writing creative stories, etc. All activities are designed to develop reading skills and reading comprehension, and to foster a life-long interest in reading.

Each semester, the Book Buddies Program serves over two dozen children in our community. Informal reports by mentors and parents have indicated that children in the program have shown growth in reading comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. The program has created a nurturing and supportive literacy environment for the children and their mentors.

The Book Buddies Program was a response to the literacy needs of the children in our community. With the support of our devoted mentors and educators, it has flourished into a successful reading mentor program and is well-liked by the parents and children in the program. The Gladys L. Benerd School of Education is committed to supporting the Book Buddies Program to help the children in our community to develop a lifelong interest in reading.



## Literacy Websites for Parents

University of the Pacific Library - <http://library.pacific.edu/>

Stockton Public Library - <http://www.stockton.lib.ca.us/>

San Joaquin County Office of Education, Resources for Parents - <http://www.sjcoe.org/>

California Department of Education, Resources for Parents - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/>