

Reading Partners is a tutoring program that helps improve and foster the reading skills of children in need. Reading Partners began helping the Washington D.C. community in 2010 and has grown into eight one-on-one tutoring programs in the city. In 1999 three community leaders came together with a common passion and goal to improve the literacy and opportunities for children. Mary Shaw, Molly McCrory and Jean Bacigalupi originally launched the program in a single elementary school, but it has since grown and spread across the country. Reading Partners now supports almost 3,000 students in California, New York, and most recently Washington D.C. The program's founders had a vision to make a difference and from 1999 to 2012 there has been significant growth in tutor, community, and donor support, all of which makes this vision more obtainable.

Reading Partners focuses on improving the reading and learning experiences of low-income children who need educational support. Elementary school children are tutored and mentored one-on-one to become more confident readers, learners, and leaders. Each child receives the individualized care and attention he or she needs to succeed. Reading Partners is only able to run and progress because of volunteer support and the efforts of volunteers and tutors in being innovative mentors and teachers for the children. All children have great potential and Reading Partners helps these children to truly realize this potential by being empowering each and every one of them and by helping them to achieve in not only reading, but all aspects of life. This program aims to prepare children for current and future success.

Read about the experiences of Reading Partners volunteers:

"Students are motivated and their self-esteem improves." - Benjamin Salas (Third Grade Teacher)

"The kind of energy and enthusiasm is very, very contagious. It makes me want to come back!" - Bernie Purcell (Volunteer)