

# Be a READALOUD Volunteer

WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



In 1983, the U.S. Department of Education created its first Commission on Reading to explore the reading decline. Its 1985 report (*Becoming a Nation of Readers*) included these findings:

- “The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”
- “[reading aloud] is a practice that should continue throughout the grades.”

Winchester Public Schools is teaming with Literacy Volunteers Winchester Area to train and match Read Aloud Volunteers to promote a program that matches volunteers with teachers who request one. Each volunteer will work with a teacher to schedule sessions (approximately 30 minutes each) periodically throughout the school year to promote a love of reading in the teacher’s classroom. Trained volunteers will receive a certificate indicating their qualification for the program. Should you choose to volunteer, you will work with the classroom teacher to determine days and times that are convenient for both of you.

Why should you become involved in this program? Jim Trelease, author of *The Read Aloud Handbook* provides many reasons!

**We read aloud to children for the same reasons we talk with them: to reassure; entertain; bond; inform; arouse curiosity; and inspire. But reading aloud goes further than conversation when it:**

- **Conditions the child to associate reading with pleasure;**
- **Creates background knowledge;**
- **Builds “book” vocabulary;**
- **Provides a reading role model.**

We hope that you will say “yes” to this chance for you to make a difference in promoting literacy in our community. If you are interested, please complete the form linked below, and we will notify you of training dates.

[Read Aloud Winchester Area Volunteer Form](#)