

History of the Community Reading Project

The project began in 1999 with a pilot project placing employees from *The Bakersfield Californian* in classrooms in the Bakersfield City School District. In the fall of 1999, the project was expanded to include over 200 community volunteers and more than 20 school sites. Today the project still places over 200 volunteers each semester. Since the fall of 2008 the project has been partially funded by the United Way of Kern County.

The Community Reading Project *in Action*

Quotes from *teachers*:

“Some of my students in one semester have improved their comprehension and reading fluency by an entire grade level.”

“The program is great – students enjoy reading to someone one-on-one.”

Quotes from *volunteers*:

“I’m so proud of the progress the children in the program have made!”

“Responsive, loving children – we clapped a lot at successes.”

Fall, 2010 Training

Thursday, September 10, 2010
3:00 pm – 5 pm

Winter, 2010 Training

Wednesday, January 5, 2011
6:00pm – 8:00pm
Thursday, January 6, 2011
3:00pm – 5:00pm
Saturday, January 8, 2011
9:00am – 11:00am

All trainings will be held at:
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
University Square, 2000 K Street, Bakersfield
Room US2

The Community Reading Project



Second Graders’ Springboard to Learning

Kern County
**Superintendent
of Schools**
*Office of Christine Lizardi Frazier
...advocates for children*

What is the Community Reading Project?

- ◆ A community/school partnership targeted at second grade students
- ◆ A program that provides research-based guided reading practice for second graders using trained volunteers
- ◆ A program coordinated by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, funded and supported by the United Way of Kern County and the Kern Community Foundation

Who is involved?

- ◆ Volunteers from the community, businesses and community organizations
- ◆ Kern County elementary schools who want volunteers to assist second grade at-risk readers

How does it work?

- ◆ Volunteers attend a two-hour training in guided reading.
- ◆ Volunteers commit one hour, one day per week at a school site for at least one semester. Semesters run from September to December and January to May.
- ◆ Schools select and assess students and provide a place and materials for the coaching sessions.
- ◆ Each visit, a volunteer coaches four students individually for 15 minutes each as they practice their reading. A different volunteer is in the room each day, assuring *daily* guided practice for the selected students.
- ◆ Data is collected from the schools. Scores from each school are analyzed to show average student growth for the semester
- ◆ Volunteers, schools and business partners are surveyed as an evaluation of the program

Results

Students in the Community Reading Project are assessed at the beginning and end of each semester using the Slosson Oral Reading Test. Students consistently show an average of 6-8 months of growth each semester.



How to Get Involved

Volunteer trainings are held each August and January at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office. For information, please contact Teresa Twisselman at 661-636-4645 or by e-mail, tetwisselman@kern.org.