



**UNITED WAY**  
Lowcountry

**Questions?, Contact:**

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# EDUCATION IMPACT

## Empowering Young Readers Across Beaufort & Jasper Counties

At United Way of the Lowcountry, our guiding light is creating **opportunities for self-sufficiency**—and it starts with education. Through our **Early Grade Reading Initiative, Read Indeed!**, we are helping children build strong foundations that will carry them through school and beyond.

### Why It Matters

Reading on grade level by 3rd grade is one of the strongest predictors of high school success. Children who are not proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade are **four times more likely to drop out of school**.

### Our Approach

Since 2012, **United Way-trained volunteer tutors** have provided one-on-one, in-school literacy support to Pre-K through 3rd grade students in partnership with Beaufort and Jasper County School Districts.

Students who are reading below grade level and would benefit from extra, individualized support are referred by school literacy coaches and teachers.

These sessions help children:

- Strengthen foundational reading skills
- Gain confidence and a love of learning
- Build positive, long-term attitudes toward education



### Our Volunteers

All tutors complete a background check and training. We ask for a minimum commitment of **one hour per week during the school year**—most tutors work with **three students per visit**. *Your time can make a lifelong difference.* Learn more or sign up: [www.uwlowcountry.org/EGR](http://www.uwlowcountry.org/EGR)

### Our Early Literacy Programs

#### Pre-K Play Partners

*A Classroom-Aligned Literacy Support Program*

- Uses dialogic reading to deepen language engagement
- Supports social-emotional skills like sharing, empathy, and cooperation
- Offers hands-on, play-based learning aligned with your curriculum
- Provides high-quality books children can take home to build their own libraries

## **K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Read to Me**

### *Interactive Read-Aloud Program*

- Features expressive read-alouds that enhance vocabulary and oral language
- Engages kindergarten and 1st grade students in weekly sessions
- Every child receives a book each week to build a home library and promote family literacy

## **1st-4th Grade Structured**

### **Literacy Tutoring**

#### *Individualized One-on-One Support*

- Focuses on phonemic awareness, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and confidence
- Uses evidence-based, structured literacy practices
- Complements in-class instruction for students needing extra support to reach grade-level goals

## **Partner Schools in Beaufort County**

- Hilton Head School for Creative Arts
- Red Cedar Elementary
- M.C. Riley Early Childhood Center
- Port Royal Elementary
- Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center
- Lady's Island Elementary
- St. Helena Elementary & Early Childhood Center
- Robert Smalls Leadership Academy
- J.J. Davis Early Childhood Center
- Whale Branch Elementary
- Joseph Shanklin Elementary



Please scan the QR Code above or visit, [www.uwlowcountry.org/resources](http://www.uwlowcountry.org/resources) for additional helpful information.

United Way of the Lowcountry is committed to our schools, educators, and volunteers. We're working together to equip every child with the tools for success, because we believe **United is the Way.**