ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from Pre-K through 3rd grade who may need extra help, utilizing one-on-one or small group settings. Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties is partnering with the United Way of St. Lucie County and The Children’s Movement of Florida to mentor young children for success.

**BUILDING BLOCKS/GOALS OF PROGRAM**

**MENTORING**: To build genuine, impactful relationships between students and our volunteer mentors.

**EARLY LITERACY**: To improve students’ understanding of the fundamental building blocks of early literacy.

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL FOUNDATION**: To help students build a strong social-emotional foundation through self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.
LOCATIONS
We offer programs in 27 counties via 17 local United Ways and other community partners, with opportunities in more than 200 schools and childcare centers around the state. We provide over 3,000 students every year with a mentor. This is all made possible thanks to the Barnett family’s passion for promoting literacy and early childhood development in Florida.

COMMITMENT
ReadingPals volunteers are asked to commit an hour per week with their student(s) for 25+ weeks during the school year (some programs may offer a 30-minute per week or half-year option). Each school year, more than 2,300 volunteers statewide make this commitment, and at least 40% return for another year!

GETTING STARTED
Once signed up through the United Way, The Children’s Movement of Florida, or Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, volunteers will be connected with a regional coordinator who will provide details about participating schools in your area, volunteer time-slots, background screening, training and curriculum.

THE EFFECT
ReadingPals volunteers see the importance of early education first-hand, and gain exposure to the challenges many teachers and students face in the classroom. We hope the ReadingPals experience will inspire our volunteers to become advocates alongside The Children’s Movement, United Way, and Big Brothers Big Sisters promoting greater investment in Florida’s youngest children.
Learn more at www.childrensmovementflorida.org or www.bbbsbigs.org