

OUR MISSION:
To provide a safe,
fun & educational
experience that
brings dogs and kids
together to enhance
reading skills.



No one pays attention quite like a dog.

It's been known for quite some time that in the presence of a therapy dog, children who struggle with reading are able to relax and become less anxious, focus on their reading and find reading fun, which results in improved reading scores and better self-esteem.

As dog-based reading programs become more widespread, the results are overwhelmingly positive as children, parents, teachers and literacy specialists realize that reading to a dog is helpful, fun and less intimidating than reading aloud in a group or to another person.

Raleigh's own animal-assisted reading program, See Spot Read, is now in its second year and has brought regular reading sessions to several locations in Wake County.

Founded by Rebecca Hirschfield and her certified therapy dog, Freddie, a 4 year-old Shepherd/Hound mix, See Spot Read has reached hundreds of children through the Wake County Library system and the Boys & Girls Club.

A dedicated group of volunteers with therapy dogs of all sizes pays regular visits to these locations where children gather to read to the dogs. Parents have reported that children who are reluctant to read at home will eagerly read to a calm and attentive dog.



Rebecca and Freddie with a young reader at Green Road Library

For more information
please visit us at:
www.seespotread.com

Our Dogs

Teddy, Toy Poodle
Guido, Italian Mastiff
Freddie, Shepherd/Hound mix
Happy, Maltese
Shadow, Golden Retriever
Luna, Lab mix
Friday, mix
Jasper, Golden Retriever
Lizzy, Lab/Dane mix
Paul, Yellow Lab
Hanna, Yellow Lab
...and others

Join us!

www.seespotread.com

Our Locations

Brentwood Boys & Girls Club
East Regional Library
Southgate Library
Green Road Library
Richard B. Harrison Library
West Regional Library
Fox Road Elementary School
Fuquay Elementary School



“We’ve had an overwhelmingly positive response to the dogs in the library,” said Avis Jones, head librarian at Wake County’s Southgate Branch. Jones was previously the children’s librarian at Green Road Library and the first to try See Spot Read for library patrons. “After the first time, we had parents and children asking when the dogs would return,” Jones continued. “And I’ve recommended the program to my counterparts in the library system.”

In addition to the benefits derived from reading to a dog, children who may be afraid of dogs have a positive experience with a well-behaved and gentle canine. “With dogs of all sizes in the program, kids can start small and work their way up to gaining confidence with the larger dogs.” Hirschfield says. “I’ve seen kids go from petting Teddy, a 5 pound toy poodle, to hugging Guido, a 145 pound Italian Mastiff.”

A librarian agrees. Leslie Ormond, Library Assistant, Youth Services at the East Regional Library in Knightdale said, “I really appreciated the way the trainers and the dogs made the children feel at ease. One girl was very afraid of dogs, but she wanted to see them so badly. In the end, she really warmed up to the dogs and her mom made a comment about how pleased she was about that.”

Along with Southgate Library and Green Road Library, See Spot Read also has regular sessions at the East and West Regional Libraries and the Brentwood Boys & Girls Club. The program’s volunteers also participate in reading fairs and school-based activities that promote literacy.

See Spot Read is always looking for more volunteers and their certified therapy dogs to join the program. “All our program participants must have certification,” according to Hirschfield. “This ensures that the dogs have completed a high level of obedience training and have been evaluated and tested by a professional for obedience and temperament.” There are several national certification organizations that provide membership benefits and liability insurance for pet therapy animals.

The organization welcomes inquiries from volunteers, facilities wishing to provide a reading program and the media. For more information, please contact Rebecca Hirschfield at 919 608 7722 or via email at info@seespotread.com. Or, visit www.seespotread.com.