Early Literacy Volunteer Sites in Lane County
(* indicates the site would prefer bilingual English and Spanish speakers.)
Please Contact Sarai Barrera at americorps@uoregon.edu once you have decided what site you would like to volunteer at.

Things to keep in mind

- **Background checks:** While some background checks only take a few days, others may take up to two weeks. Make sure you have your background check done within good time, preferably before the term starts.
- **It is best practice to have your site picked out and have your hours set with your supervisor before the term begins.**

**Bethel Family Resource Center**
1380 Taney,
Eugene 97402
Contact Person: Anne Johnstone-Diaz
Back ground check: yes
Depending on availability, volunteers would have the chance to help plan and participate in

- story times
- activities
- arts and crafts
- Raising A Reader book exchange
- parent groups
- and early literacy education.
- There might also be the opportunity to work on creating a board game for families based on common core standards. This specific volunteer would need to put in a dedicated amount of time.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays would be the best time to go to the site. There are Spanish and English parenting groups in which volunteers would give child support, provide early literacy, and help prepare for the group. Bilingual speakers are encouraged to volunteer.

**Day Care Provider**
1765 Bailey Hill Rd
Eugene, Oregon 97402
Contact Person: Margaret Carpio
Back ground check: yes
Day care runs Tuesday through Thursday and currently contains 1-3 year olds. Volunteers would be involved in

- early literacy activities
- and planning activities for children at the site
Margaret would prefer someone who is bilingual who is able to read and speak in English and Spanish. She would also like to have volunteers who have ideas and activities to contribute to the group.

*Downtown Languages*

221 B St
Springfield, OR
Contact person: Brook Edwards

Downtown Languages is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to offering specialized language and life-skills classes for people with emerging language skills while improving communication in our community, and building and strengthening multicultural connections in Lane County.

Separate handouts describe the volunteer opportunities for Downtown Languages. Contact Sarai Barrera for more information.

**Firs Place Family Center Play Group**

1995 Amazon Parkway Ct
Eugene, OR
Contact Person: Eileen Chanti
Background check: yes (It is included in the SVDP volunteer application.)

As a volunteer you can expect to

- facilitate all parts of the playgroup.
  - Play with kids
  - prepare lunch
  - take children outside
- Participate in circle time.
  - Rhymes
  - Wordplay
  - Read books one on one with children.
  - Participate in a read aloud session with children and parents. (During the read aloud, the importance of early literacy is addressed with parents and suggestion about what they can do with their children to promote literacy in their daily life are made.)

First Place Family Center is the "first place families living in homelessness/transition turn to when they find themselves in crisis. Families are often dealing with trauma, stress, and all the hurdles that come along with homelessness, including domestic violence, generational poverty, abuse, and addiction.
**ISMT (International School of Modern Technology) Preschool**  
3575 Donald Street Suite 250  
Eugene, OR 97405  
Contact person: Abrella Luvert  
Back ground check: preferred but not necessary (No background check is necessary as long as volunteers are working under staff supervision. There is a $3 fee for criminal background check to be in positions alone with students)  
Volunteers can expect to integrate science, math, and technology with their early literacy volunteerism. Some key aspects of the volunteer work will consist of working on

- calendar/math literacy  
- essential early literacy  
- working with individuals one on one  
- reading stories as a group and one on one  
- computer literacy (phonix)  
- recess  
- and literacy incorporated into games.

There is also a story time held the first Saturday of every month from 11am-1pm for children and volunteers to participate in. The preschool is also on the busline on bus 24. Times to contact Abrella would be 8am-5pm. Take a look at the ISMT website at ismteugene.org.

**Migrant Education Program**  
1200 Highway 99 North  
Eugene, Oregon 97402  
Contact Person: Marcia Koenig  
Back ground check: yes (Can get form on site)  
This is a fall, spring, and summer site. Fall and spring volunteers can be expected to help prepare and participate in a pre-k classroom that begins on March 30. There is also an opportunity to work on literacy with children and families as a whole. Bilingual volunteers are preferred.

**Oakridge Westfir Family Resource Center**  
76499Rose St.  
Oakridge, OR 97463  
Contact Person: Kack Camerer  
Back ground check: depends  
Volunteers can expect to

- work in a toddler group  
- participate in class activities  
- and carry out Raising A Reader duties.
Pearl Buck Preschool
3690 West 1st Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402
Emily Collins
(541)484-4666 ext.5150
Background check: yes
As volunteers you can expect to

- engage in activities with the children
- facilitate small group activities
- supervise playground/gym time, transition, and arrival and departure of students.
- **volunteers are never left alone with students and do not help with toileting.**

Volunteer hours are 8:45-12:45, Monday-Thursday during school sessions. You will have an orientation meeting with the volunteer coordinator, Emily Collins, and receive a volunteer packet about the school and volunteer expectations. Volunteers must pass a background check through the Office of Childcare ($3) before volunteering in the school. Visit [http://www.oregon.gov/OCC/Pages/Online_application_informationpage.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OCC/Pages/Online_application_informationpage.aspx) and complete the online Central Background Registry (link is on the left side of the page). You will have 30 days to acquire an Oregon Food Handler’s card and will be able to help with food service after this is complete ($10).

Relief Nursery
1720 W 25th Ave
Eugene, OR 97405
850 South 42nd Street
Springfield, OR 97478
Contact Person: Amy Beauchamp
While Amy is the volunteer coordinator for both sites she is mainly stationed at the Eugene Site.
Background check: yes with the Childcare Division of the State of Oregon
Volunteers can expect to work directly with children under the age of six who are at risk of abuse or neglect in classroom settings.
Early SMART (Start Making A Reader Today)
525 Mill St.
Springfield, OR 97477
Contact Person: Lorie McNichols
Background check: yes
While SMART has many more volunteer opportunities, early literacy volunteer opportunities within SMART will consist of having one on one reading support with preschool and Kindergarten aged children. Volunteer positions are available in

- Head Start Classrooms in Springfield (at the Brattain House) and Eugene (at Fairfield Elementary)
- The Family relief Nursery in Cottage Grove,

Pleasant Hill Family Resource Center
36386 Hwy. 58, Pleasant Hill 97455
Contact person: Cathy Murphy
Background check: yes
As a volunteer you can expect to

- Participate in playtime.
- Participate in story book time.
- Participate in arts and crafts time.
- Aid in implementing Raising A Reader.

Susan’s at Home Childcare
3870 Kincaid St.
Eugene, OR 97405
Contact Person: Susan Sibili-young
Background check: no
Volunteers will have the opportunity to

- read aloud to children as a group and on a one on one basis
- and practice one on one first reading steps with children (early literacy skills).
Afternoons work best but time is flexible after 2:30pm and before 5:00pm. With this site there is also a sister location with a focus on ages 0-2.

Willamalane
250 S. 32nd Street
Springfield, OR 97478
Contact Person: Kim Lyddane
Background check: yes
At Willamalane there are two different opportunities for volunteering. There are volunteer opportunities for students who are working towards a degree in Early Childhood Education.
Willamalane is able to host three to six volunteers who are working towards a degree in Early Childhood. These students are able to

- volunteer for a long period of time in the early childhood classrooms (several hours a day)
- help with a variety of activities, crafts and games
- work with staff to determine times when they are able to lead literacy activities.

Students will need to complete a volunteer application along with two background checks prior to starting.

Students who are not working towards a degree in Early Childhood Education. Willamalane is expected to host three to five of these volunteers depending on their schedules. These students are able to

- serve as a special reading guest. (Students will not be able to participate in other activities.)
- read to classrooms in 15 minute increments. There is a potential to move from classroom to classroom to read if EC classes are on schedule. If they are running behind, the student will be able to assist with prep activities (counting, sorting, copying, cutting, etc.) until the next class is ready.
- volunteer 45 minutes to 1 hour per day. You would need to schedule several days of reading in order to accomplish your hours.
- Students will need to complete a volunteer application along with two background checks prior to starting.