

UMaine Center on Aging – RSVP
Let's Read! Let's Grow!
Volunteer Position Description

Purpose of Service: Children lagging behind in literacy will be selected by school teaching staff to participate in “*Let's Read! Let's Grow!*” activities. Volunteers will read aloud and engage in literacy enhancing activities one on one or in small groups at a minimum of one hour weekly. Our goal is to ensure that Maine's youngest children are read aloud to regularly, thus building their reading and language skills and giving them a love of books and reading that they will carry with them into the future.

Locations: Public and/or nonprofit educational settings involving preschool age or younger children throughout Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, and Washington counties.

Goals: Our goal is to ensure that Maine's youngest children are read aloud to regularly. Research shows that being read to regularly by a caring adult in the first five years of life, is critically important to a child's success in school and in lifelong learning. By offering a small amount of your time, you can help children in your community develop a love of reading that can last them a lifetime!

Qualifications: This volunteer position requires the ability to read aloud in a manner engaging for young children. A love of reading and a love of very young children, as well as patience, are prerequisites.

Description of Service Activity: Volunteers will coordinate with UMaine Center on Aging RSVP and site staff to read aloud with local early childhood sites. Activities are delivered one-on-one or in small group settings. The program is designed to help children develop a love of books along with early literacy skills such as book awareness, comprehension, retention, and expanded vocabulary. Children having had positive read aloud experiences with a caring adult will develop more confidence and build the early literacy skills needed to enter kindergarten and for future learning.

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Time Requirements: Time requirements will vary depending upon location. Generally, service activity time requires 1-2 hours (including preparation) weekly with a minimum of 30 minutes weekly.

Training: Volunteers will receive pre-service training to assure continuity of “*Let's Read! Let's Grow!*” program delivery, and smooth integration into sites depending upon their prior experience with young children. Volunteers may also receive periodic trainings on specific literacy topics from time to time.

Materials: An initial supply of books will be supplied through, in-kind donations, “*Let's Read! Let's Grow!*” grant monies, or purchased by UMaine Center on Aging RSVP. Books may be borrowed from local libraries (each book must be approved by the site supervisor prior to reading). Additional books during the year may be available from the RSVP office.

Other Requirements: UMaine Center on Aging – RSVP “*Let's Read! Let's Grow!*” volunteers will be required consent to and undergo background investigations such as the National Sex Offender online check and possibly at State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) check. These must be returned “clean” to participate as a volunteer in this program. Volunteers will also be required to sign this volunteer position description.

Agreement: I, the undersigned, agree to the conditions set forth in this document.

Volunteer Printed Name: _____

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

RSVP Staff: _____ Date: _____

Station Supervisor: _____ Date: _____