**LITERACY BUDDY PROJECT**

**Application**



# Name

Street

City State Zip code

Telephone # Business/Organization

E-mail

Alternate address (if applicable)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Alternate address dates\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Literacy Buddy project?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like more than one Literacy Buddy?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ If so, how many?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By completing this application, I agree to receive drawings and letters from a child in an early learning center served by the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County. I will, in turn, send a letter and a high quality book to this child in response to his or her drawing. This exchange will take place three times over the course of the school year. I understand the drawing I receive will either indicate a specific book or a type of book the child would like to receive based on interest.

*\*Note: Correspondence will include the child’s first name, age and gender*

# SIGNED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE:

Mail, email or fax application to:

Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County

1750 17th Street, Building L

Sarasota, Florida 34234

Fax: 941.954.4831 Phone: 941.954-4830 ext. 225

 mail@elcsarasota.org



Thank you for your interest in The Literacy Buddy Project!

The Literacy Buddy Project matches up volunteers with 3 year-old or 4 year-old children attending community preschools throughout Sarasota County. Most of the participating children have little or no access to books at home or in their communities.

The program is a Pen Pal exchange of drawings, letters and books.

As a Literacy Buddy, a child will draw you a picture showing a current interest, (Dinosaurs, Bugs, Butterflies, Rainbows). The teacher also writes you a message interpreting the child's drawing. The Early Learning Coalition will then mail you the drawing. We ask you to respond with a handwritten letter and a new book corresponding to the child's drawing. You mail the book and the letter directly to the school or you can drop it off at the Early Learning Coalition office or our designated drop off sites. If you prefer to shop for books online, ([Amazon.com,](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__Amazon.com&amp;d=DwMFAg&amp;c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&amp;r=mPmorPXGF3O2C4BSKoX5NDCqJtDmsM8H1VBTnu05fD4LUCSxCh6LRmLn06SDZY5W&amp;m=DMycUW6S9AAyHFdRwuGhIqAPb8l0S9OgIx4OPYW2JcE&amp;s=h9OW5te2vIqlyhGygjXlKWJ8Bft49ezgEa0u9Ev0Iiw&amp;e) [Target.com,](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__Target.com&amp;d=DwMFAg&amp;c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&amp;r=mPmorPXGF3O2C4BSKoX5NDCqJtDmsM8H1VBTnu05fD4LUCSxCh6LRmLn06SDZY5W&amp;m=DMycUW6S9AAyHFdRwuGhIqAPb8l0S9OgIx4OPYW2JcE&amp;s=f4E9itgGETzXbMbycXTGyXqBrnHPWx7wLJHxNRxFIjI&amp;e) [Barnesandnoble.com](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__Barnesandnoble.com&amp;d=DwMFAg&amp;c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&amp;r=mPmorPXGF3O2C4BSKoX5NDCqJtDmsM8H1VBTnu05fD4LUCSxCh6LRmLn06SDZY5W&amp;m=DMycUW6S9AAyHFdRwuGhIqAPb8l0S9OgIx4OPYW2JcE&amp;s=eWH9nW2Qixfz-Y9TD98OwWBfwkFKKJqu4IcqNscfvR4&amp;e)) you will ship directly to the school and mail your personal letter separately. Upon arrival, each book will be read aloud to the class before the child brings it home. Some teachers even plan class activities and/or lesson plans around the books. After the first distribution, the child will draw you a Thank You note and, in the same drawing, tell you about another interest (requesting a new book). This kicks off the next session!

We ask you to commit to purchasing 3 books throughout the school year: Fall, Winter and Spring. The Coalition guides you through the entire process. You will receive emails with instructions, reminders, general book suggestions and a timeline for the entire school year. We are always available specific book suggestions and for anyone who needs assistance writing the handwritten note.

The Early Learning Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, legislatively mandated to ensure Sarasota County infants, toddlers and preschool aged children have access to quality childcare, early literacy and educational programs.

Thanks to compassionate people like you, our Literacy Buddy volunteer list continues to grow, allowing our reach to grow with it!