

PRESCHOOL PAGES

UNITED WAY OF PICKENS COUNTY WOMEN UNITED | APRIL 2025



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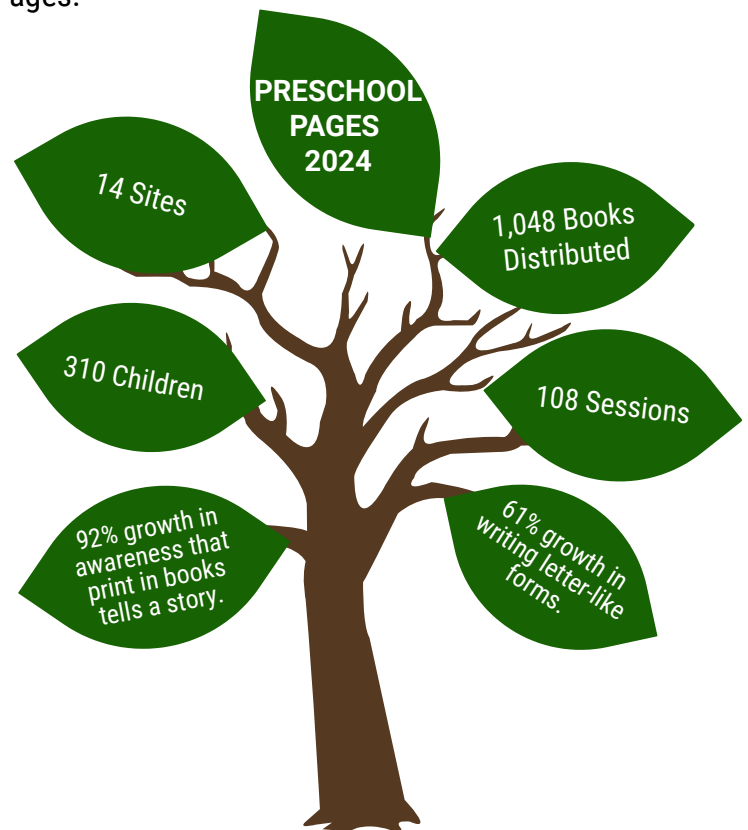
GROWING YOUNG LEARNERS

Your generous support of **Preschool Pages** is helping young children grow their love of reading and learning.

Preschool Pages is Women United’s signature program to support the development of early reading competency skills in our very youngest learners... preschoolers.

Your support allowed young children and their caregivers to attend Preschool Pages at all 14 elementary schools throughout our county this year. They participate in story time accompanied by related crafts and activities which helps them develop important literacy skills while learning that school is a safe and happy place.

Your donations are crucial to allowing these children and their caregivers to leave each session with books and recommended activities to do at home. Your gift reinforces the lessons learned at Preschool Pages.



“ Why Preschool Pages?

“I want my child to have a positive school experience and have the opportunity to be around other children in a school like environment. I really want my child to develop a love of reading!”

“I hope my daughter develops friendships, has fun, and gains a love of learning.”





A NOTE OF THANKS

Karla Kelley, member of the Pickens County School Board, wants to share her gratitude for the way you helped her young niece, Vivian, blossom through your support of *Preschool Pages*.

“Please allow me the privilege of saying “Thank You” for sponsoring programs such as *Preschool Pages* throughout the School District of Pickens County. Particularly *Pup Tales* at McKissick Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) in Easley. As a proud “Aunt KK”, I love watching the sheer excitement from my almost 2-year-old niece.

She has learned so much through this program. In addition, it has provided special time for her to bond with her grandparents who bring her to this wholesome learning environment.

As a member of the Pickens County school board, I understand the importance of early readers. Every child deserves the right to know how to read. **Thank you to the members of Women United and the hundreds of donors who make this program possible for all children in Pickens County at no charge.** Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed.

Her mom, Jenna Carter, wants you to know this:

“*Pup Tales* has been an amazing experience for my daughter, Vivian, and for us as a family. She’s been participating in *Preschool Pages* since she was 14

months old. She now feels confident about going into her new “shark” school, MAST. She looks forward to story time, craft time, and getting to see her new friends. The book she receives each month is one that we memorize. I recommend *Preschool Pages* to all moms with young kids.

Thank you, United Way of Pickens County and your donors, for supporting this wonderful program!”



Vivian’s learning continues at home thanks to your generous donation which sends a book and activities home with each family.



TEACHERS BRING PRESCHOOL PAGES PROGRAMS TO LIFE

Preschool Pages teachers select the books, design the activities, recruit the families, and host the programs at their schools. They are Reading Coaches, Media Specialists, Title 1 Coordinators, and more. They make sure that young children and their caregivers experience a positive, engaging and age-appropriate early literacy program that truly grows little readers.

And they do all of this voluntarily, outside their normal school duties.

For many families, this is their very first experience with their future school. Through Preschool Pages, teachers are able to build relationships and welcome families to the school community, setting them up for future success.

When Magee Sexton, Liberty Primary's Preschool Pages teacher, was asked her thoughts on the program, she had this to say:

"Liberty Primary's Preschool Pages program, called Toddler Rock and Read, is something I truly



Because of your support, teachers like Mrs. Sexton can make learning fun and school welcoming for young learners through Preschool Pages.

look forward to each month. It is a highlight for me because it provides the unique opportunity to build meaningful relationships with both the children and their caregivers. It is incredibly rewarding to witness the joy and excitement as families come together to learn and grow. The most special part is seeing caregivers and their children bond over reading, music, and shared activities!"



The teachers also have a front row view of the growth children make through Preschool Pages. They even witness the caregivers bloom. Here are just a few teacher observations:

“My student grew so much over the course of the year! At first, she only wanted to sit in the lap of Mom or Dad. By the end, she was playing with others. She also slowly began interacting more with me while I was reading and would answer questions about the story. I watched her learn to identify shapes, count, learn to retell stories, and imagine. She also started to be comfortable enough to dance. I am so proud of her progress.”

“This student has grown so much since the beginning of the year. She is more comfortable interacting with others and is more attentive to the stories and activities.”

“This child has not been exposed to many educational experiences before. The mother is trying to work hard with her children.”

“My student has really grown this year. He is more engaged and talkative. I even got a hug at the last session! His mom has really come out of her shell and is talkative with other caregivers, especially the ones that are regulars in the program.”

“The dad did a great job of bringing this child to the program and, overtime, he became more engaged and involved in the Preschool Pages sessions.”

“This student has made a lot of progress this year. She began the year with a lot of screaming and crying. Now, she cries very little and participates in activities.”

“It was evident that my student became much more comfortable each month. Initially, when asked a question, he would not make eye contact or he would retreat to mom, but as the program progressed, he became much more comfortable.”

“My student has grown so much this semester. Her language skills are really good. She loves to answer questions about the story that is read at story time. Her mom began to socialize more and more with the other mothers as the semester progressed. She was very thankful toward staff for the opportunity to bring her children each week. They attended 9 sessions out of 12!”

Children are growing because of YOU! Thank you!



THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CAREGIVERS

The moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even great-grandparents who bring their little ones to **Preschool Pages** see the growth in their children, too.

Take Maverick's mom, Adrian, for example. Adrian was worried about her son. He was reactive and could get angry at times. When her friend and preschool teacher, Caitlin Cummings, suggested taking Maverick to Dacusville Elementary's **Preschool Pages** program, **Toddler Time**, it seemed like a good idea.

The first few times, Maverick was a little shy. The more times he attended, the more he blossomed. He made friends and looked forward to going.

The next year, Maverick started 4K at Dacusville Elementary... and his teacher was Ms. Cummings! "We told him it would be like **Preschool Pages** but all day." He loved it! He knew some of his classmates and that really made him comfortable.

Maverick is now thriving in 5K. Adrian calls him her little old man because he wakes up, reads or

watches the news, and gets himself dressed for school.

You gave Maverick the head start he needed through your support of **Preschool Pages.**

“ **Why **Preschool Pages**?**






"I want my child to have a positive school experience and have the opportunity to be around other children in a school like environment. I really want her to develop a love of reading!"

"I want him to have a chance to interact with kids his age and to learn to listen and pay attention to someone who is not a family member."

"I want my grandson to have positive literacy experiences in a school setting. I hope that he will develop a love of reading and of school."



Your support of **Preschool Pages** and early literacy is crucial.

-  Engaging with books helps children develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
-  Early literacy activities expand a child’s vocabulary.
-  Children who develop strong literacy skills early are more likely to succeed academically.
-  Reading together can strengthen the bond between children and their caregivers.
-  Introducing children to books at a young age fosters a lifelong love for reading and learning.

“ **Why Preschool Pages?** ”

“Our daughter loved going and started to break out of her shell more.”

“My son loved Preschool Pages. We loved re-reading the books that he brought home. Thank you for letting him participate.”

“As we went, my granddaughter got more and more comfortable with meeting new people.”

Women United is a force!

The members of United Way of Pickens County’s Women United are a diverse group of women who are passionate about children and education. They are educators, former educators, mothers, grandmothers and business leaders. But, more importantly, they share the belief that children who are prepared for school have a greater chance of success.

The council works hard to ensure that Preschool Pages offers high-quality programming for families, and that donor funds are used wisely to support early literacy. They also host the annual Luncheon for Literacy to raise funds to support this important work.

Learn more on social media or the Women United webpage.

www.uwpickens.org/women-united



Your 2025 Women United Council
Betsy Askew, Julie Thompson, Laura Boland
Kay Hiott, Ruth Chapman, Sandra Maddox
Jeanne Otey, Anita Porter, Bonita Holland



@PickensWomenUnited

YOU CAN CHANGE A YOUNG CHILD'S LIFE

Young children in our community need your support to grow into strong students.

Children who develop literacy skills early in life are more likely to succeed academically. They enter school with a better grasp of language, which makes learning other subjects easier.

But did you know that **60% of children in our community lack the skills they need to start kindergarten "ready to learn"?**

Young children need the early learning experiences Preschool Pages provides in order to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, expand their vocabularies, and develop a lifelong love for reading and learning. **But this life changing program can't happen without you!**

Please make your gift today and give young learners the tools they need to start kindergarten strong!

MY GIFT TO HELP A YOUNG CHILD GROW INTO A STRONG STUDENT

YES! I will help a young child have the early literacy experiences they need to grow into a strong student.

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____ to help as much as possible.



Scan with your phone's camera to donate securely online.

Support young children today: uwpickens.org/books | PO Box 96 Easley, SC 29641 | 864-850-7094