



*Scott Spino Literacy Program*  
**Scott Spino Literacy Program**  
**2007-08**

*Dear Literacy Partners,*

*It is the beginning of a fresh new year for the Scott Spino Literacy Program and we thank you sincerely for volunteering once again.*

*Included in this packet you will find some resource materials, the dates for this year's meetings with your child, and some details about how the program works for those of you who are joining us for the first time.*

*As in the past, we invite you to contact us with any questions or concerns at any time. We value each volunteer in this program and will do everything we can to make sure your experience is rewarding.*

*Thank you so much for giving precious time to precious students!*

*Sincerely,*

*Geri Spino [information@scottspino.com](mailto:information@scottspino.com)*

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*Frequently asked questions about the Scott Spino Literacy Program:*

*What do you expect of me as a volunteer in this program?*

*The children we are targeting in this program are used to adults not following through on commitments, so we would like you to commit to coming each month and working with your child for 30 minutes. If you travel or have other extenuating circumstances, it is perfectly acceptable to partner with another adult so that there is always a “backup” plan. Many of our volunteers work together with colleagues in the same classroom so that there are plenty of people to fill in. We also ask that you bring one new book for your child to keep each month. This way the children begin to build home libraries.*

*What if I can't afford to buy a book each month?*

*Your time is more important to us than the book. Please let us know if this is a problem for you and we will have a book ready for you to give each month. We will also have books available for sale each month for \$2.00 in case you don't have time to shop or have trouble finding books at an appropriate reading level.*

*Is there a training session for this program? Yes, this year the training session will be held at WROCTV studios on Humboldt Street in Rochester on September 26th. The station has invited us to come watch the 6 PM news broadcast in the studio. Anchors Kevin Doran and Maureen McGuire have both been volunteers in this program since it began.*

*Should I come to the training even if I'm a returning volunteer?* This year we will be covering some issues at the training that have not been covered in the past, and some changes have been made. We'd really appreciate attendance by anyone who can possibly arrange to come.

*When will I know which child I'm assigned to?* We'll be getting class lists the second week of school and can give tentative information on the night of training. If you are a returning volunteer who had a first or second grader last year we hope to keep you with that same student.

*What am I allowed to give my student?* Volunteers are **not** allowed to give students gifts of any kind, other than the book and a pencil or sticker. We are very strict about this because it causes hard feelings with the other students, and distracts from the focus on reading. If you find out your student has a serious need, please speak with the teacher or with one of us privately about the issue.

*Can I get a list of appropriate books for the child I'm working with?* Yes, we'll hand out all those materials the night of training. If you cannot attend training, we're happy to e-mail them to you.

*What can I do if I have a problem with a teacher?* Please let us know right away if there is a problem with anyone, including a teacher or another volunteer. We can usually find a solution, but only if we know about the issue.

*Dates for the 2007-08 literacy program*

*September 26<sup>th</sup>—training*

*October 24<sup>th</sup>*

*November 28<sup>th</sup>*

*December 19<sup>th</sup>*

*January 30<sup>th</sup>*

*February 27<sup>th</sup>*

*March 26<sup>th</sup>*

*April 30<sup>th</sup>*

*May 28<sup>th</sup>*

*June 18<sup>th</sup> ---carnival day*

*On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the students will receive a book and a small fleece blanket. You can provide this for your student, or we will if you'd like.*

*This year we will have over 200 literacy partners working one on one with the same number of children. Volunteers will come from 12:15 to 12:45 PM on the last Wednesday of each month, beginning in October this year. Lunch periods have been scheduled so that if you would like to come a bit early and/or stay a bit late to work with your child, you may do that. The children in grades 1 through 3 will be available in their classrooms from 12 PM to 1 PM the days we are scheduled.*