



**READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS® (R.E.A.D.®) DATA
BENNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PILOT PROJECT
MARCH 2000 THROUGH JUNE 2001**

Since March 2000, ten children have been formally enrolled in a Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®) pilot project at Bennion Elementary School in Salt Lake City, Utah. In the R.E.A.D. program, children are paired with a registered therapy dog, to whom they read once a week. The intent of this pilot project was to assess the effect of this unique program on the children's reading progress, as measured by commonly used reading skills instruments.

Teachers, the principal, and the school social worker selected children for the pilot. All children in the pilot were reading below grade level at the time that they were first enrolled. Children ranged in age from 5 to 9 years of age. Three students were foreign born and spoke English as a second language. The school had identified all of these children as at-risk youth.

During the pilot, two Intermountain Therapy Animals Pet Partner® teams met with these children once a week at the end of the school day. Each child was able to read one-on-one for approximately 20 minutes with the Pet Partner team. Children in grades K-1 enrolled in the program were evaluated by the school reading specialist using the *Reading Roots Assessment* tool. Children in grades 2-6 were evaluated using the *Success For All* tool. As of this report, test results indicated that all of the children improved their reading scores significantly (see attached test scores).

Improved reading scores were not the only changes that were noted with these students. Teachers also noted the following:

- Decreased absenteeism
- Improved self confidence and self esteem
- A sense of pride in their accomplishments
- A willingness to get involved in other activities (chess club, civics club, field trips, etc.)
- Improved hygiene
- Interactions with animals more respectful and kind
- Found reading fun

- Checking books out of the library and asking the librarian about books to read
- Four of the children received AAA Awards (all A's on their report card in science, math, and reading).

Because of the positive outcomes seen in these children, the principal has requested that the R.E.A.D.[®] program continue at Bennion Elementary when the school year resumes.

Over 500 children have participated in the R.E.A.D. program this past year in the following facilities:

- Salt Lake City Library System: Teams are available to read with children from 1-3 PM every Saturday in all six branches. They call this program "Dog Day Afternoons."
- Holt Elementary School, Clearfield, Utah
- Bennion Elementary School, Salt Lake City, Utah
- The Boys and Girls Club, Murray, Utah
- Ogden, Utah Library (the "Ulti-Mutt Readathon")
- Layton, Utah Library
- Oakdale Elementary School, Sandy, Utah
- Benchmark Hospital, Woods Cross, Utah (adolescent boys in juvenile detention)

*Reading Education Assistance Dogs[®] (R.E.A.D.[®]) is a registered program of Intermountain Therapy Animals, Salt Lake City, Utah.
All rights reserved.*

**READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS® (R.E.A.D.®) DATA
BENNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PILOT STUDIES
SCHOOL YEARS 2000-2001 AND 2001-2002**

SCHOOL YEAR 2000 - 2001

Name/Grade	March 2000	June 2000	Sept. 2000	Dec. 2000	March 2001	June 2001
Sarah 3-4th Grade (AAA)	3.1	3.2	4.0	5.0	5.5	5.5
Lydia 3-4th Grade (AAA)	3.4	3.2	5.5	5.9	6.4	6.8
Riley K-1st grade (AAA)	01*	6*	1.8	2.0	2.3	3.0
Reese K-1st grade (AAA)	01*	06*	11.0*	2.1	2.6	(Moved)
April K-1st grade		1.0*	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.8
Martika (ESL) 4th grade			3.0		4.62	4.91
Alejandra 5th grade			1.9	3.2	3.2	3.1
Seth 3rd grade		1.6	1.9	2.2	1.9	3.5
Bewar (ESL) 6th grade	2.2	2.1	3.1	(Moved)		
Aldina (ESL) 5th grade	2.2	3.1	3.4	3.4	(Moved)	

ESL = English as Second Language

SFA = Success For All test results

* = Reading Roots Assessment Scores

AAA = American Automobile Association award. A's in math, science and reading in 2001

SCHOOL YEAR 2001 - 2002

Name	Grade	Sept. 2001	Dec. 2001	March 2002	June 2002
Josue (Hispanic)	6	3.1	4.1	3.4(!)	4.4
Tenzin (Tibetan)	5				2.9*
Nancy (Biracial)	2	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6*
Jessica (Biracial)	4		2.1	2.3	2.8
Maria (Peruvian)	5	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.9*
Riley (Anglo)	3	2.5	2.7	3.9	3.8
Sara (Anglo)	5	5.2	6.4	6.4	6.4
Nancy (Hispanic)	5	1.8	2.5	3.3	4*
Jose (Peruvian)	1	1	1.2	1.5	1.6*
Angela (Hispanic)	1	1	1.1	1.2	1.3*

* Will continue in program 2002-2003

(!) Had Major surgery



READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS™

A PROGRAM OF
INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS

Reading Education Assistance Dogs® (R.E.A.D.®) is a registered program of Intermountain Therapy Animals, Salt Lake City, Utah. All rights reserved.

4050 SOUTH 2700 EAST, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84124 (or) PO BOX 17201, SLC, UT 84117 • TEL 801.272.3439 • FAX 801.272.3470

(10/3/02)

WEBSITE: www.therapyanimals.org