



EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF ORANGE COUNTY





**Welcome to
the Book
Buddy
program!**



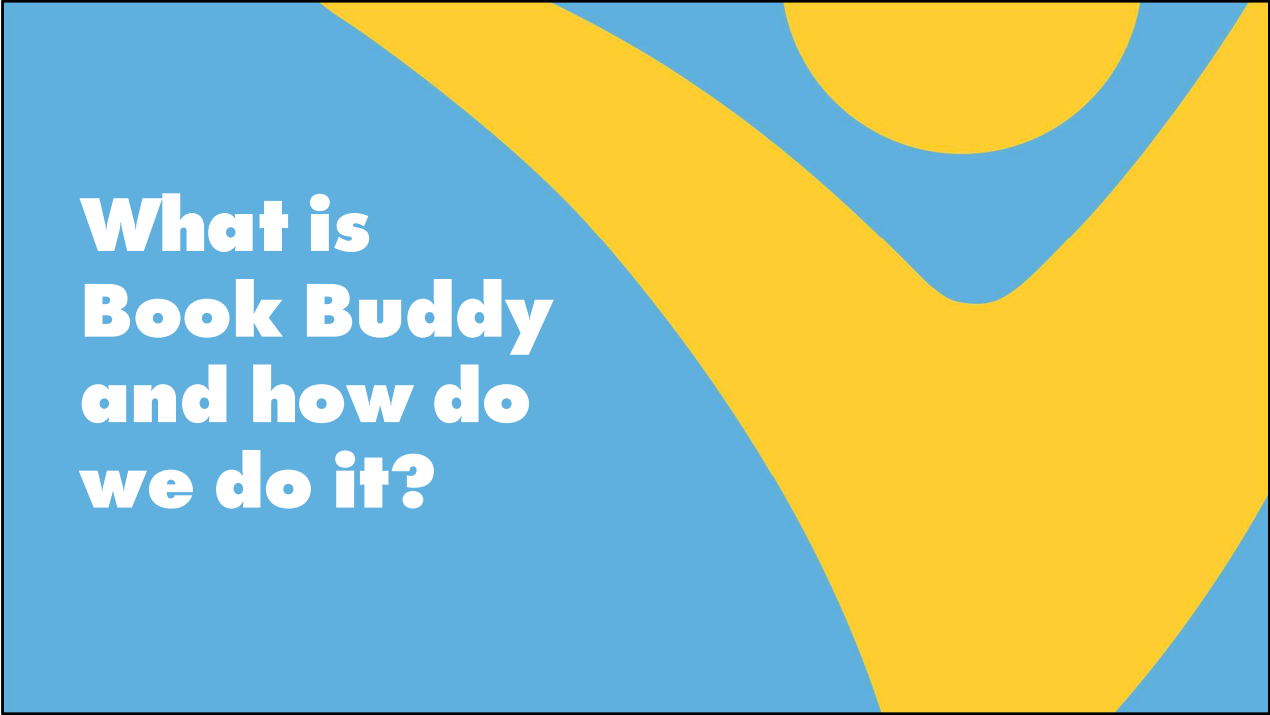
OUR VISION...

is for every child in Orange County to enter kindergarten with the foundation necessary to reach their full potential.

OUR MISSION...

is to provide every child with equal access to high-quality early learning programs by supporting those who help children grow and develop.

I want to begin by telling you a little bit about the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County. Our vision is for every child in Orange County to enter kindergarten with the foundation necessary to reach their full potential. Our mission is to provide every child with equal access to high-quality early learning programs by supporting those who help children grow and develop.



What is Book Buddy and how do we do it?

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- The Book Buddy program connects early learning providers, parents and members of the community to help children develop early literacy and writing skills.
- We do it by pairing a 3 or 4-year-old child in a childcare classroom in Orange County with a Big Book Buddy (you!). The Big Book Buddy communicates with their Little Book Buddy and shares their love of reading by exchanging books and letters throughout the school year.
- As a reminder, there will be no direct contact between you and your Little Book Buddy. Your Book Buddy will be taking the books you gift them home to read with their parents.



WHAT IS A PROVIDER?

A provider is an early learning center, home care provider, or child care center.

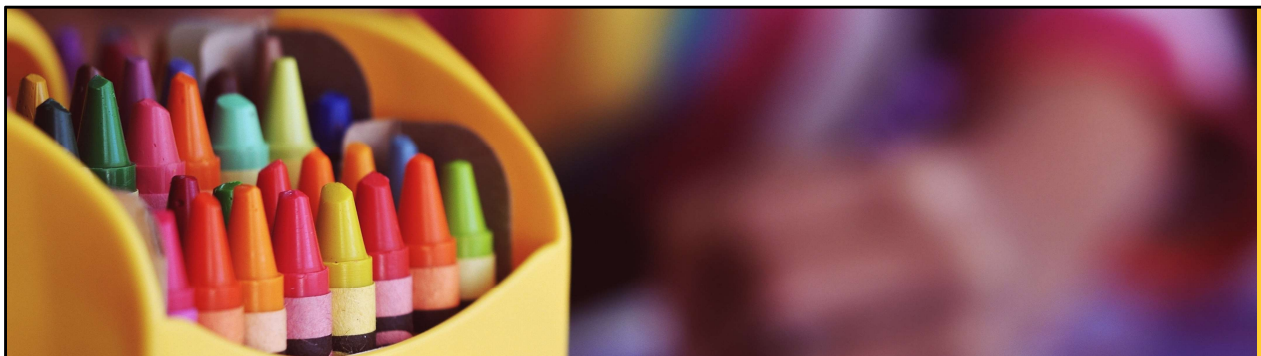
What is a provider? It is an early learning center, home care provider, or child care center.

- All 3 and 4-year-old classes are offered through these institutions.
- The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County partners with **nearly 500 providers** across Orange County.



Which children will be participating in Book Buddy?

- This year, we have expanded Book Buddy into the 3-year-old classrooms at each participating provider, in addition to the 4-year-old children in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program.
- Some of you may be familiar with Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program, also known as VPK. Since VPK is such an integral part of our relationship with Orange County providers, I want to tell you a little bit about the program. It is an education program funded through the Florida Department of Education. The state of Florida guarantees one year of pre-kindergarten preschool education free of charge to every four-year-old child in the state. Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer this type of program.
- Your future Book Buddy is either currently enrolled in this program and will be starting Kindergarten next year, or is in the three-year-old class and will be attending VPK next year.



BOOK BUDDY GOALS:

- Support early learning and emerging literacy skills.
- Promote kindergarten readiness and future academic success.

CHILDREN WILL:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of words and how we use them.
- Demonstrate writing skills.
- Comprehend and discuss stories in a book.

There are many goals that we are aiming to accomplish through the Book Buddy program. They are to:

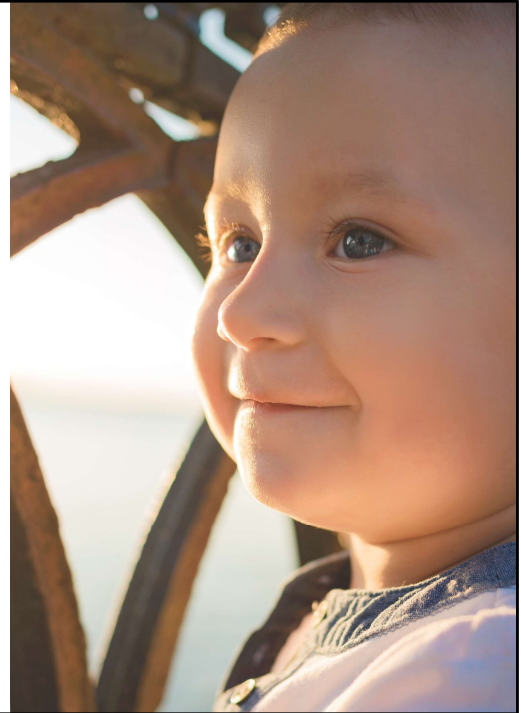
- Support early learning and emerging literacy skills and promote Kindergarten readiness and future academic success.

Through this program, children will:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of words and how we use them, demonstrate writing skills, and comprehend and discuss stories in a book.

AS A BIG BOOK BUDDY, YOU....

- **Invest** in a child's early years.
- **Provide** a positive reading experience.
- **Reinforce literacy** and social development skills.
- **Serve** as early literacy advocates.
- **Encourage** a child to read at home.
- **Support parents** with school readiness resources.



Through this program, you all have an amazing opportunity to make a big difference in your community and your Little Book Buddy's life. A few of the ways you will do this are shown here. You will:

- Invest in a child's early years, leading to their future success.
- Provide a positive reading experience.
- Reinforce literacy and social development skills required for the child's overall growth.
- Serve as early literacy advocates, empowering your Little Book Buddy to take ownership of his or her education.
- Encourage a child to read at home.
- Support parents with school readiness resources and strengthen them as leaders in their child's academic success.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Children in economically depressed communities have **zero to two age-appropriate books** in their homes.
- By age four, low-income children experience a **30 million word deficit** compared to their more economically advantaged peers. (Hart & Risley 1995)

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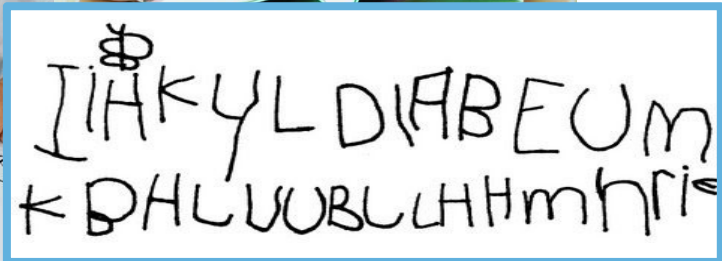
- **One out of three Orange County children** enter school not ready to succeed.
- Children who are prepared when they enter kindergarten are **more likely to graduate high school** and enroll in college.

Did you know?

- Children who are prepared when they enter kindergarten are more likely to graduate high school and enroll in college.
- One out of three Orange County children enter school not ready to succeed. So to put this into perspective, one out of three of us right now may have a child or know a child that's not ready to enter Kindergarten.

The Book Buddy program was started to help close these gaps and begin tackling all of these challenges.

WRITING AND READING MILESTONES



- Right now, your Book Buddy is in the midst of a very important stage of learning. Reading and writing is a huge part of building this foundation to all future learning. The intention of the Book Buddy program is to build on and improve these skills in each child, and so I want to give you some background on these aspects of learning.
- Emergent writing is a young child's first attempts at the writing process. According to studies on emergent writing, children as young as two years old begin to imitate the act of writing by creating drawings and symbolic markings that represent their thoughts and ideas. (Rowe & Neitzel 2010; Dennis & Votteler 2013)
- Shown here are some examples of the types of writing you might see from your Little Book Buddy. The writing and reading that they will be participating in through this program will enhance their overall literacy skills and prepare them for future academic success.

EXAMPLE "LETTERS"



- Here are some examples from last year of what the "letter" projects might look like.
- They will be using cut-outs from magazines, painting, and/or drawing to create their letter to you.
- Each letter has a different theme that the child will base their project around. The first theme is "My Favorite Things", the second is "My Favorite Places", and the third is "Fairytales". This means that the specified book list will change every round, so make sure to review the new book list each time you order your book.
- If you are having trouble deciphering what your Book Buddy's letter means or it doesn't seem to line up with any of the book options, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We can help you figure out the meaning of your Book Buddy's letter and help you find a book accordingly. There are also book options on the list that are generally based around the theme and not very specific, so one of those might be a good choice in that situation.



SCHOOL TO HOME CONNECTION

- Classroom lesson plans.
- Take home activities.
- Classroom kits.

An important aspect of our Book Buddy program is engaging both the teachers and parents of the children to support literacy growth in the classroom and at home. We have three main ways of accomplishing this:

- Classroom lesson plans: to enhance the existing curriculum of the child care center and bring more structure to the classroom.
- At-home activities: to engage the parents in their child's literacy journey at home.
- Classroom kits: to support literacy year-round with additional resources for teachers in the classroom.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- Little Book Buddy **creates their “letter”**.
- **“Letter” sent to you** via email and mail.
- You **purchase a book** and write a response note.
- Little Book Buddy **receives their book**.
- Each child completes a **at-home project** related to their book.



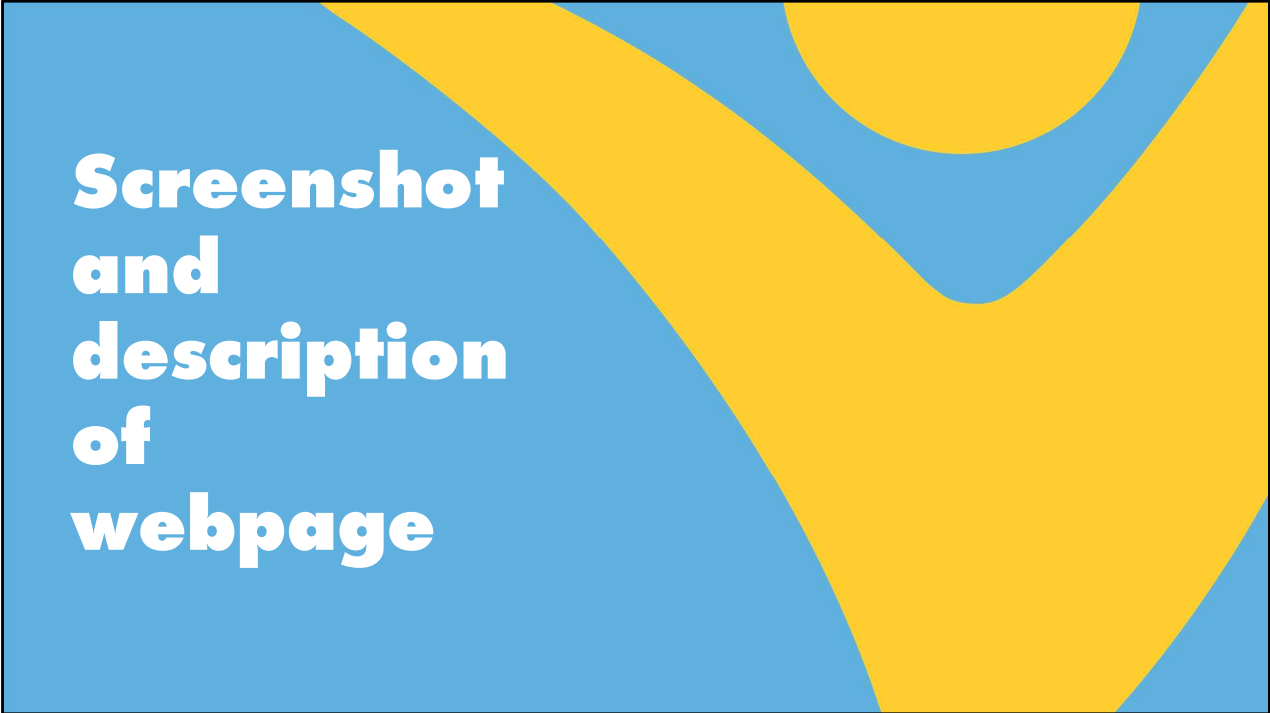
Now I'll review the general Book Buddy program outline.

1. To start, in class, each child will create an initial “letter” to his/her Big Book Buddy describing an area of interest within the theme for that round.
2. You will receive the child’s “letter” via email and mail.
3. You will then purchase a book based on the child’s interests indicated in their “letter”, and write a response note during the purchase process.
4. Your Little Book Buddy receives their book and completes a take-home project related to the book that they receive from you. You will see this project in the mail along with the second letter.
5. This letter exchange and book purchase takes place three times per school year.

We know that many of you may want to buy more than one book per round. Though we are only able to give your Little Book Buddy one book per round, you still have the option to purchase more than one book to be donated to the Book Buddy program. Extra books will be used to substitute missing books. We will go into more details about this later in the presentation.

To reiterate, you will not be communicating with your Book Buddy directly. All communication will go through our office for the privacy of both you and the child.

Please also let us know if your home or email addresses change at any point throughout the program, so we can be sure to send your letter to the correct address.



Screenshot and description of webpage

We know that this can be a lot of information to take in, and we want to make it as easy for you as possible to access information you need throughout the Book Buddy program. We have built out a page on our website that will serve as your Book Buddy Hub this year, which is shown here. Here, you can find everything from the next important date to the Volunteer Book Buddy Handbook and book order instructions.

Include link and how to get here and describe more about the resources on here.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

September 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 You are emailed the name of your Little Book Buddy	6	7
8	9	10 The first lesson plan is introduced in the classroom	11	12	13	14
October 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15 Your Little Book Buddy's first letter sent to you via email and mail	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Book #1 order deadline	23	24	25	26

- Program intro and wrap up
- Letter sent to you
- Book order deadline
- Little Book Buddy receives their book

- Here is the program calendar, which includes the deadlines to purchase the books and receive the letters.
- Please note that we have cut out weeks and months that didn't have any deadlines or reminders, so make sure that you are looking at the number to know the correct date.
- We will be sending out emails to you throughout the program to remind you of the book purchase deadlines.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

November 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 Your Little Book Buddy receives their first book	6	7	8	9
January 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14 Your Little Book Buddy's second letter sent to you via email and mail	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Book #2 order deadline	22	23	24	25
February 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10	11 Your Little Book Buddy receives their second book	12	13	14	15

■ Program intro and wrap up

■ Letter sent to you

■ Book order deadline

■ Little Book Buddy receives their book

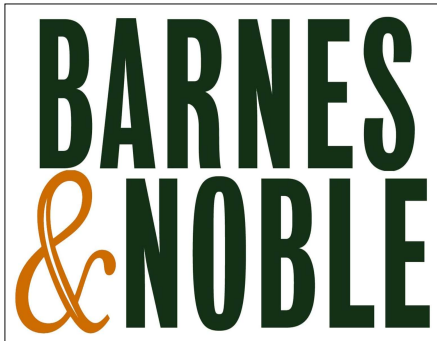
You can have a closer look at these dates on the PDF version of this presentation that you received, or on the Book Buddy Hub as many times as you need.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

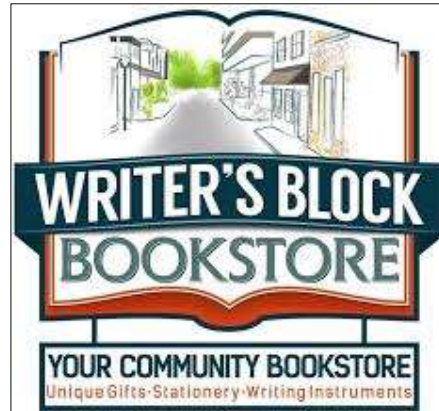
		March 2020						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
■ Program intro and wrap up	15	16	17 Your Little Book Buddy's third letter sent to you via email and mail	18	19	20	21	
■ Letter sent to you	22	23	24 Book #3 order deadline	25	26	27	28	
		April 2020						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
■ Book order deadline	12	13	14 Your Little Book Buddy receives their third book	15	16	17	18	
		May 2020						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
■ Little Book Buddy receives their book	3	4	5 Final program survey sent to you via email and mail	6	7	8	9	

- A survey will be sent to you at the end of the school year.
- Your feedback is very important to us. Since this is part of a three year pilot program, your feedback will help us to grow, develop, and scale Book Buddy in future years.
- If you have any suggestions during the program as well, please feel free to email or call us. This contact information is at the end of the presentation.

PURCHASING BOOKS



OR



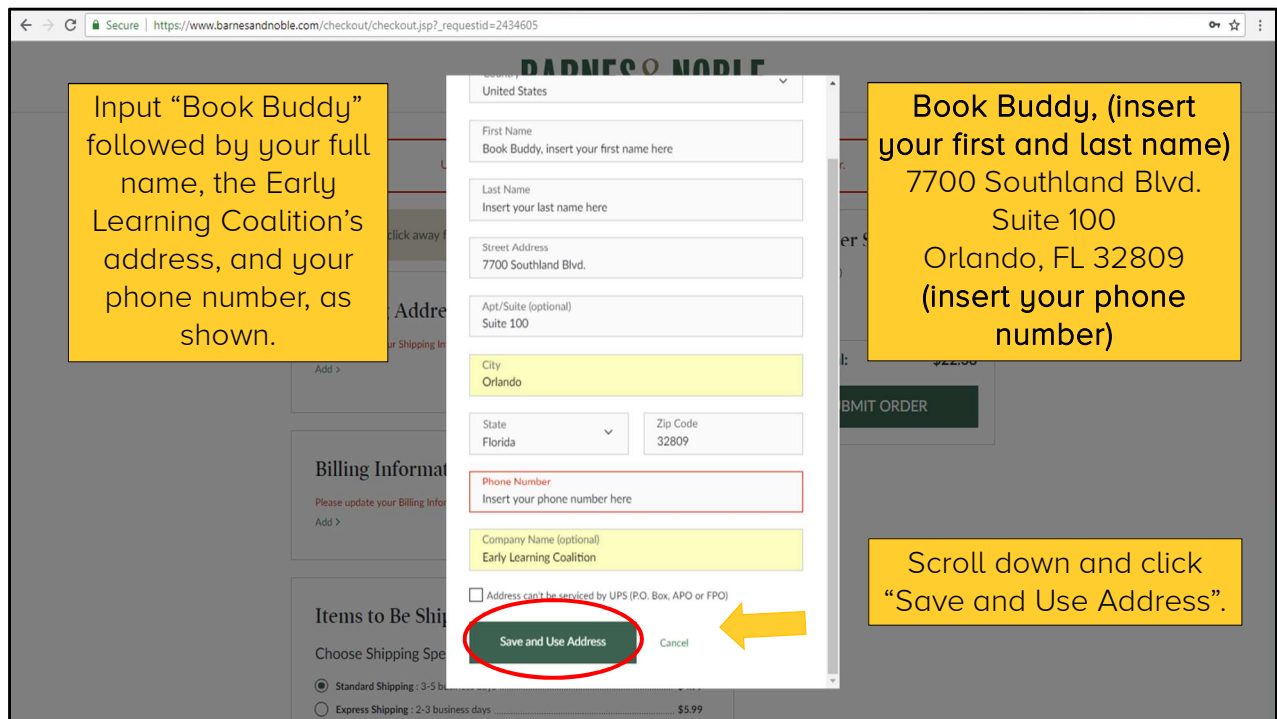
- You can purchase your books through our online Book Buddy portal in partnership with Barnes and Noble. You will also have the option to purchase through Writer's Block, a local bookstore.
- We have detailed book order instructions about how to use both of these online portals, which you can reference on the Book Buddy Hub as needed.
- To be clear, you will choose one portal to use for each book purchase.
- If you would prefer to order your books at the store, you are more than welcome to. You can go to either store (Barnes and Noble – Colonial Dr.) and let them know that you are there for the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County Book Buddy program. They will be able to help you purchase your book right there. Please have an idea of the book you want ahead of time.
- Within each portal is a list of books that you will be able to choose from for your Little Book Buddy. These age-appropriate books have been specifically chosen by our staff experts here at the Coalition to enhance the Book Buddy lesson plans. For this reason, we ask that you stick to these pre-made book lists when selecting your books. There are plenty of options to choose from.

BARNES & NOBLE

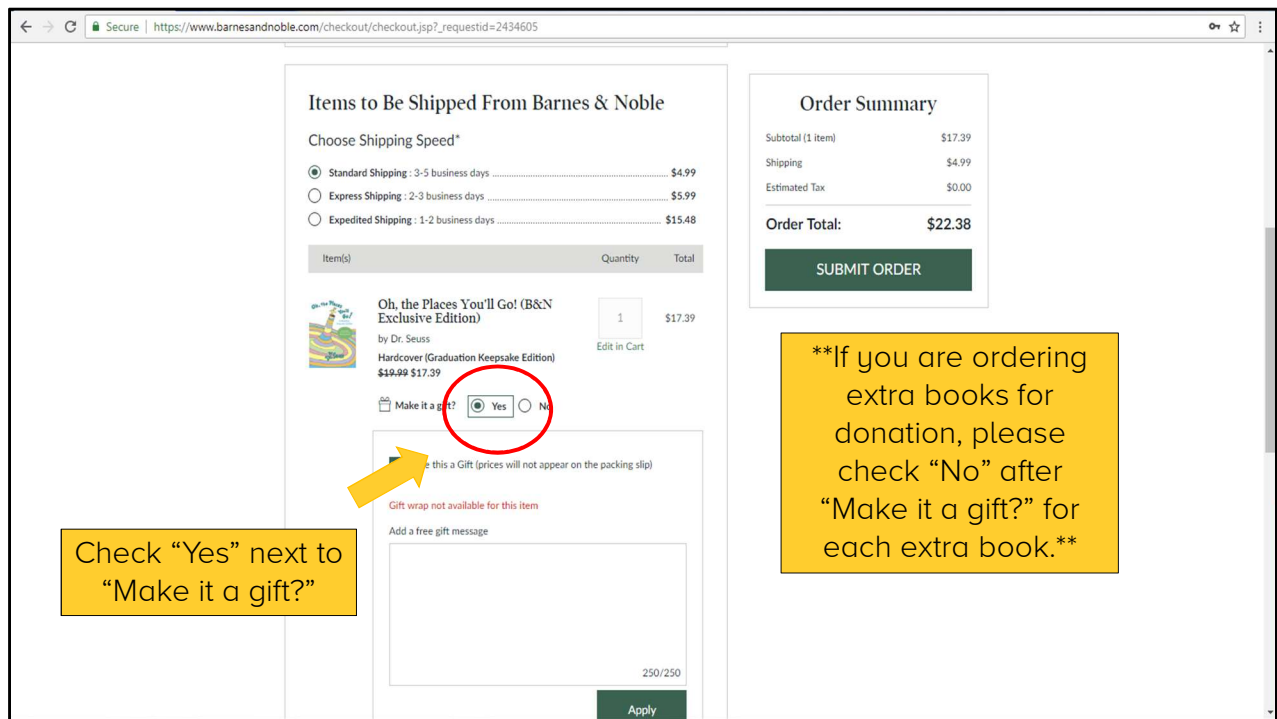
Follow the link below to the Book Buddy portal on the **Barnes and Noble** website:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/account/wishlist.jsp?giftlistId=gl36490490601>

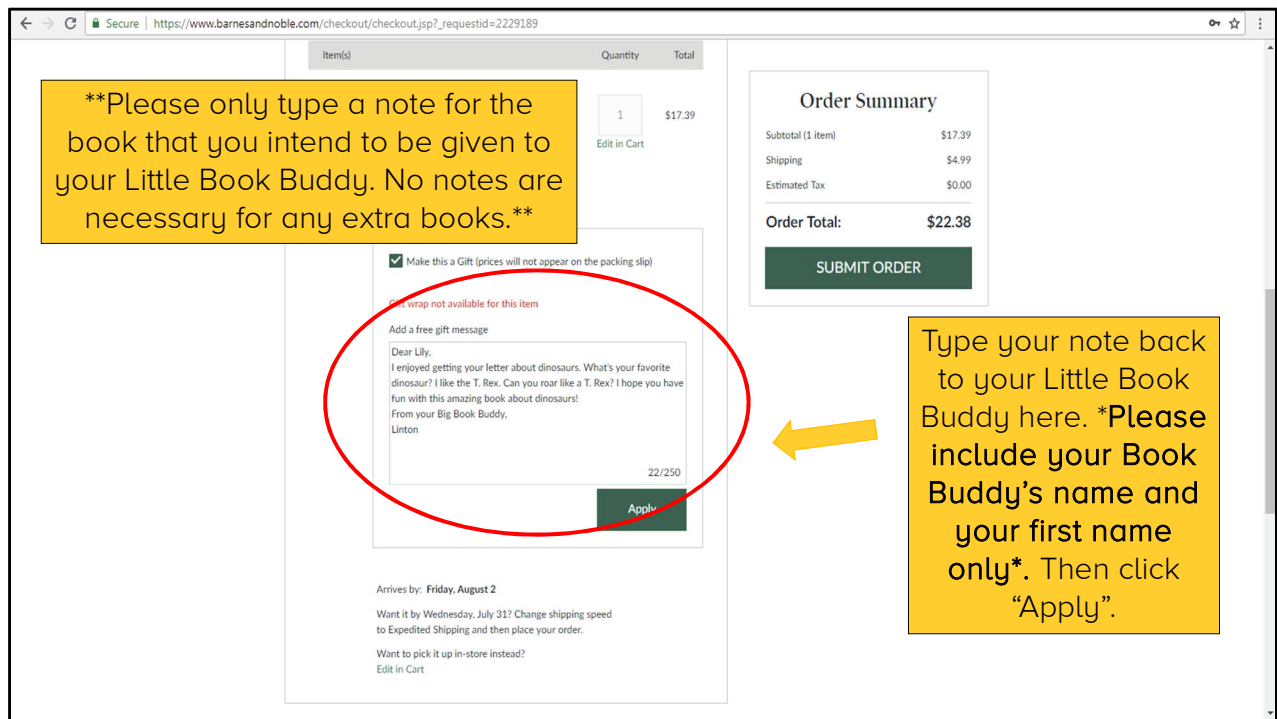
- We are now going to show you important parts of the purchase process for both Barnes and Noble and Writer's Block.
- The full instructions are in the Book Order Instructions PDF that you received as I mentioned.
- To get to the Barnes and Noble portal, follow this link. All links are hyperlinked in your PDF, and have also been emailed to you.



- Here is the "shipping address" section in the Barnes and Noble purchase process.
- In the name section, you will need to write "Book Buddy", comma, then insert your first and last name.
- You will input the Early Learning Coalition's address as shown, then you will put in your personal phone number under that.



- During the purchase process, you will have the opportunity to write a note back to your Little Book Buddy.
- This screenshot shows you where to write your message during the Barnes and Noble purchase process.
- Please check "Yes" next to "Make it a gift?". If gift wrap is available, please do not add it.
- If you are ordering extra books for donation, please check "No" after "Make it a gift?" for each extra book so that we know which book is intended for your Book Buddy and which are donations.



- In the text box, you will write your note back to your Little Book Buddy.
- Please include your Little Book Buddy's name and your first name only.
- No notes are needed for any extra books.

The screenshot shows the Barnes and Noble checkout page. At the top, there are options for gift status and shipping speed. On the right, an 'Order Summary' box shows a subtotal of \$17.39, shipping of \$4.99, and an order total of \$22.38. The main section is titled 'Membership, Gift Cards & Coupons' and lists several options: 'Apply B&N Membership or Educator Discount', 'Apply B&N Gift Cards and Kids' Club Rewards Certificates', 'Apply Coupon Code', 'Apply Bookfair ID', and 'Apply Tax Exemption'. The 'Apply Bookfair ID' option is highlighted with a red circle and a yellow arrow pointing to it. A yellow box with the text 'Click "Add/Edit" next to "Apply Bookfair ID".' has an arrow pointing to the 'Add/Edit' link. Another yellow box with the text 'Input the provided Bookfair ID and click "Apply".' has an arrow pointing to the 'Apply' button. The footer contains the text 'BN.com is Safe and Convenient' and the Norton logo.

Each round, we will provide you with a Bookfair ID to input into your order. This is where you will put it in. Scroll down after you write in your note and you will find it at the bottom of the page.

EXAMPLE NOTE



Dear (Insert name of your Little Book Buddy),

I enjoyed getting your letter about dinosaurs. What's your favorite dinosaur? I like the T. Rex. Can you roar like a T. Rex? I hope you have fun with this amazing book about Dinosaurs!

From your Big Book Buddy,

(Insert your first name only)

- Here is an example note.
- Your message will be printed on a label and included with the book when it is delivered to the child.
- Be sure to keep your note short and simple, so a 3 or 4-year-old will be able to read and understand it. Also be sure to include your first name only.

WRITER'S BLOCK BOOKSTORE

Winter Park, Florida



Follow the link below to the Book Buddy portal on the
Writer's Block website:

<https://www.writersblockbookstore.com/welcome-early-learning-coalition-orange-countys-book-buddy-portal>

- To get to the Writer's Block portal, follow this link.

Under "Pick-Up Options", please check this box.

This does NOT mean that you will be picking up your book at the store, the ELCOC will be picking up the books.

Coupon discount

Enter a coupon code for this order.

Coupon Code

Enter a coupon code and click "Apply to order" below.

Apply to order

Pick-Up Options

I would like to pick this order up at the store. (In-store Pickup)

Payment method

following options.

Subtotal:	\$7.99
In-store Pickup:	\$0.00
Subtotal excluding taxes:	\$7.99
Tax:	\$0.52
Order total:	\$8.51

Expiration date 01 - January 2018

CVV

Save this credit card for later use.

Billing/Contact information

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) List

DISCOVER THE LEAGUE OF SHADOWS!

Perfect for fans of Percy Jackson!

Reading Group Indie Next List

A Kind of Freedom By Margaret Wilkerson Sexton

- You will go through the book selection process, which again, you can view those instructions with the Book Order Instructions PDF.
- One important step that you need to be aware of during the Writer’s Block process is the “Pick-Up Options” section.
- As shown, you will need to check the box that says “I would like to pick this order up at the store”. This doesn’t mean that you personally will be picking your order up, it means that the Early Learning Coalition will be picking your order up at the store.
- Because of this, you will not need to put in a shipping address during the Writer’s Block purchase process.

Expiration date: 07 - July 2022

CVV: 504

Save this credit card for later use.

Billing/Contact information

Enter your contact / billing address and information here.

* First name:

* Last name:

Company:

* Street address:

* City:

* State/Province: - Select -

* Country: United States

* Postal code:

* Phone number:

Order comments

Use this area for special instructions or questions regarding your order.

Order comments

Dear Johnny,

I hope you enjoy your "Pete the Cat" book. I don't have any cats, but I have two dogs. My dogs' names are Cagney and Lacey.

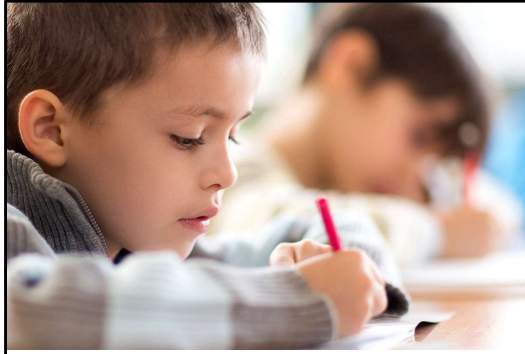
Cancel Review order

Type your note back to your Little Book Buddy here. *Please include your Book Buddy's name and your first name only*.

****If ordering extra books to be donated, please indicate in your note which book you intend to be given to your Little Book Buddy. No notes are necessary for any extra books.****

Then click "Review order".

- This screenshot shows you where to write your message during the Writer's Block purchase process.
- You will input all other necessary information first, then the comment box will be at the bottom of the page before clicking "review order".
- If you are ordering extra books for donation, please check write "Donation" in the comment box for each extra book so that we know which book is intended for your Book Buddy and which are donations.



INFO TO REMEMBER

- Approximate cost for all three books: \$30.
- Stick to the provided book list.
- Extra book option.



Some important info to remember about the purchase process:

- The approximate cost for all three books is \$30.
- Please stick to the provided book lists. To reiterate, the books in both portals have been specifically chosen to enhance the lesson plans that go with this program, so please stick to picking your books from the new list for each round.
- As stated earlier, we can only give each child one book per round. If you buy more than one book, please specify which book you would like to go to your Little Book Buddy and we will donate the others to the Book Buddy library to substitute any missing books throughout the program.



- The picture on the left is what a child will look like if they don't receive a book when the rest of their class does, so it is very important that each one of you order your books on time.
- This is also why we ask that you not add gift bags or wrapping to your order. If some children something extra and others don't, it won't seem fair.
- We are aiming for the happy face 😊



PROGRAM SECURITY

- All correspondence facilitated by the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
- Only first names used
- Standards of confidentiality maintained

The Early Learning Coalition will take these steps throughout the Book Buddy program in order to maintain program security:

- All correspondence will be facilitated by the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County for the protection of the children, providers, and volunteers.
- You, the Big Book Buddy, will receive the first name of the student, and the teachers and Little Book Buddy will receive your first name only.
- The ELCOC and child care providers will maintain standards of confidentiality of the program.

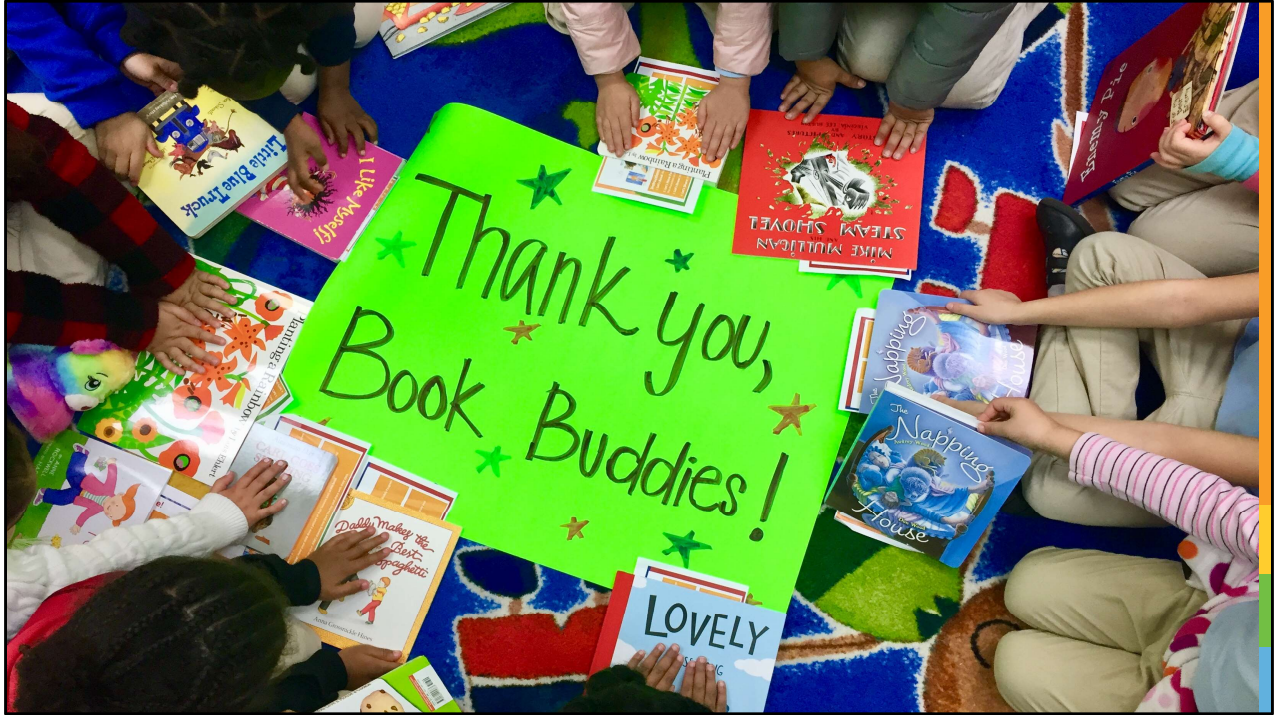


KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Keep a lookout for emails from us.
- Check the Book Buddy Hub often.
 - Order your books early.
 - Have fun!!!

Some keys to success:

- Keep a lookout for emails regarding the Book Buddy Program with our updates, reminders, or changes. Be sure to check your spam and junk folders, or you can add bookbuddy@elcoc.org to your “safe senders” list.
- Check the Book Buddy Hub often for updates or resources.
- Order your book with plenty of time before the deadline.
- And most importantly - have fun!!!



Thank you so much....

- For joining us today and committing to the Book Buddy program.
- You are helping 3 and 4-year-old children build early literacy skills and be prepared to graduate to Kindergarten and beyond.
- You are making a direct impact on the future of our community.

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Contact us at:

(407) 506-4806

bookbuddy@elcoc.org

- If you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback at any point throughout the program, please don't hesitate to call us or reach out at the Book Buddy email!