

Read to Breton!

Mattapoisett Library's TDI Certified Therapy Dog

Therapy Dogs International's "Tail Waggin' Tutors" program encourages children to read by providing a non-judgmental listener and furry friend to read to that won't laugh at them if they make a mistake or stumble over a word, but rather lie next to them and enjoy the story being read to them. The children learn to associate reading with being with the dog, and begin to view reading in a positive way. Over time, the child's reading ability and confidence can improve because they are practicing their skills, which will make them enjoy reading even more.

The reading session will take place in a quiet, comfortable area. The child picks out a book that he or she would like to read, and sits down next to the dog and handler and start reading. (We often find that the book is one the child thinks the dog would enjoy!) The visits are only for 15-minute blocks of time, but the impact lasts longer than just the session, as the child may be more likely to read on his or her own. Even children who do not need help with reading skills or confidence can benefit from visiting with Breton, as he is a supportive listener and friend to all!

Mattapoisett Free Public Library
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www.MattapoisettLibrary.org