

Paws on Reading

The Paws on Reading program partners youth being served by the various Crosswinds Youth Services programs with a trained and certified therapy dog. The identified youth and therapy dog meet twice a week for a reading session.

The program includes ten reading and therapy dog sessions. Youth will learn improved reading and communication skills, basic dog grooming and care skills and, most importantly, relationship-building skills in a loving, safe environment.

Upon completion of the program, the youth will receive a certificate of completion, complete with a photo of themselves with the therapy dogs, a paw print, and a brand new book .

Crosswinds has its own Paws on Reading Therapy dog team.

Luke and Jasmine are Registered & Certified Therapy Dogs.

These special dogs undergo a series of intensive testing and training sessions to assure that they have the appropriate temperament and training to become successful Therapy Dogs.



**For more information,
contact:**

Wendy Keighley

(321) 452-0800, ext. 146

**Crosswinds Youth Services
1407 Dixon Boulevard
Cocoa, FL 32922**



Paws on Reading Program



*Enhancing children's love
of reading through the use
& interaction of
Therapy Dogs*



CROSSWINDS
YOUTH SERVICES, INC.

Paws on Reading

As youth explore their own identities while participating in the various programs Crosswinds Youth Services offers, perhaps one of the most important accomplishments they achieve during their stay is building healthy, safe, and loving relationships in a positive manner, while boosting their individual self-confidence and personal direction. The Paws on Reading program further enhances the unique needs of each child in all of these areas, while also fostering a lifelong love of reading and animals. On an individual basis, youth will be reading to a dog, a very special dog that is a Registered and Certified Therapy Dog. The child will read in a private environment with no pressure from their peers. An educator will also be present. They will complete a ten-session program, enhancing their reading skills and their understanding of dog etiquette and care, while increasing their self-confidence.



*Creating
Opportunities
For
Young People
to Succeed!*

- ◆ A child who can read is a confident child.
- ◆ Children may find it easier to read to a dog.
- ◆ Dogs are non-judgmental.
- ◆ Dogs instill security and comfort to the child.
- ◆ Dogs do not mind if a child makes a mistake.
- ◆ The one-on-one experience with a dog is a powerful tool to help the child to read.
- ◆ Children are not self-conscious when they are with a dog.
- ◆ Working with a dog helps children recognize the need for de-escalation in their own behavior, which is a beginning to a future of their own self-control.

