

Reading2Connect®

Revolutionizing the Way People Living with Dementia Engage with Literature and Each Other

Drawing on a decade of nationwide experience, **this award-winning initiative** brings older adults, care partners, and senior care professionals into your library, while strengthening your community relationships.

The Reading2Connect® Library Program provides:

- A large collection of age/dementia capable books
- Employee training based on “Montessori for Aging and Dementia” principles
- Supporting materials

The Reading2Connect® Books -- respecting the adult dignity of the reader.

- Age/dementia capable text with abundant illustrations.
- Retaining the integrity of adult literature.
- Physical books printed on tear-resistant, washable paper for durability & infection control.
- Age/dementia capable eBooks and Video Books.
- Available in several languages.
- Popular topics and cultural topics (e.g., civil rights, Judaism, the Korean war).
- Damaged books are replaced at no cost.

The Reading2Connect® Training -- employees and volunteers learn about:

- Circulating the Reading2Connect books and publicizing this resource.
- Becoming a more age/dementia friendly library and participating in Memory Cafés.
- Collaborating with senior care community organizations.
- How library workers across the nation are using this resource inside and outside of their libraries *so you don't have to reinvent the wheel!*

NOTE: Your library retains **lifetime access to the Reading2Connect® Training**, ensuring that the Reading2Connect® Program flourishes for many years to come.

The Reading2Connect® Library Program one-time fee is \$2,250 and includes:

- Lifetime access to 70-minute, online, library employee training
- Lifetime access to 30-minute, online, care partner training
- 20 single copy books
- 24 group books (six sets of four)
- 10 eBooks and 10 Video Books
- 8 book stands and a Reading Screen
- Educational handouts and patron handouts
- Reading2Connect Member Forum
- No shipping costs. No subscription fee.



Reading2Connect® not only enriches the lives of those living with dementia, but also offers a sustainable, innovative program for libraries to assume a leadership role in supporting the older adults in their community!

Reading2Connect®

Testimonials

"To be honest, I found it to be great. The books encouraged remembrance, mention sensory experiences like the smell of baking cookies and the feel of baby's skin—things that folks in this group would likely remember, and resonate with. A lot of the residents were happy to read out loud, and the pictures were wonderful."

-- Cheryl, Baltimore Mobile Library, Maryland

"Reading2Connect has allowed our library to finally provide reading opportunities to a segment of our community that might otherwise go unserved. The books spur memories, engage minds, and start conversations with those who might otherwise slip into a period of inertia and isolation. These purpose-designed materials form the core of a project in which all our partners are proud to participate."

-- Tom Piezzo, Brainerd Library, Connecticut

"I highly recommend not only the Reading2Connect materials, but also Susan's expertise. The Reading2Connect materials have been greatly enjoyed by staff and residents at assisted facilities. Susan provided excellent training to start us all and has remained involved as a friendly and encouraging contact. The materials she has created are innovative and the perfect solution to keeping people reading".

-- Nancy Larson, West Bend Library, Wisconsin

"One person was snoozing when wheeled up to the table and another did not give any indication of being very verbal. But as soon as I asked them if they would like to take a turn reading, they perked up and became interested in the activity and conversation!"

-- Melissa Gotsche, Baltimore County Public Library, Maryland

"There was a woman who shared how much she enjoyed the Reading2Connect books, saying that it was the perfect amount of information in such a concise, readable format. She does not suffer from memory loss, demonstrating that these books meet the information needs of all older adults."

-- Lynne Haynes, Kirkwood Library, Missouri

"This was fantastic! I am going to launch an in-library group for Summer Reading Program. I am going to incorporate a reading challenge (probably a punch card type approach) so that participants can earn SRP prizes. I'd also like to launch the video book program at a Memory Care unit using props to help support experiences."

-- Jennifer Harden, Wickson Library, Michigan

"This program not only fosters a love of reading, but it fosters connection, socialization, and relationships. I often cite the Harvard Study of Adult Development which states in part: "Loneliness kills...It's as powerful as smoking or alcoholism." Add to this the isolation that dementia brings, and you see how this program plays a vital role in the lives of participants."

-- Karen Wall, Worcester Talking Book Library, Massachusetts