

MARTHA SPEAKS Reading Buddies

What is MARTHA SPEAKS?

MARTHA SPEAKS is an animated series for children ages 4-7 that follows the adventures of Martha, a loveable dog whose appetite for alphabet soup gives her the power of speech. Using her speaking abilities, Martha gets jobs, wears disguises, foils bad guys, wins contests, runs for office, and orders lots of steaks! Based on best-selling books by Susan Meddaugh, the series is designed to address the vocabulary deficit common among lower socioeconomic and at-risk groups. It is funded in part by a cooperative agreement from the US Department of Education's Ready to Learn grant. You can learn more about MARTHA SPEAKS at <http://pbskids.org/martha/>

What is the Reading Buddies Program?

Using the vocabulary focus of the MARTHA SPEAKS television series, The Reading Buddies Program pairs 4th or 5th grade students with kindergarten students to meet on-on-one, share books, talk together, and do fun activities.

How Does the Program Work?

Reading buddies meet for 8 sessions, one session per week. During the session they will watch MARTHA SPEAKS episodes, read books that include the featured or thematically related vocabulary, use these new vocabulary words in one-on-one conversations, and do hands on activities together.

Each Participating 4th/5th grade classroom receives:

- A classroom copy of the book *Martha and Skits*
- A chapter book for each student to take home
- A Reading Buddy program guide for each student
- A Reading Buddy program participation certificate for each student

Each Participating Kindergarten classroom receives:

- A classroom copy of the book *Martha Speaks*
- One classroom set of 8 children's books per pupil to be used in the program
- One of the reading buddy books per pupil for each student to take home
- A DVD with the 8 selected MARTHA SPEAKS episodes for each student to take home
- A Reading Buddy program participation certificate for each student

Martha Speaks Reading Buddies Program Investment: \$6,500

Martha Speaks Character Appearance: \$1,500

