



Everything New Orleans

# Reading to Rover program gives youngsters a rapt audience

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**Chris Granger, The Times-Picayune**  
By



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Photos by Chris Granger, The Times-Picayune

Parker, a whippet owned by Claire Sommers, listens closely as Taylor Moliere, 9, reads a book to him at the 'Reading to Rover' program at the Keller branch of the New Orleans Public Library at the Andrew Wilson Charter School.

The **Reading to Rover** literacy project is designed to allow children to read aloud to one of the visiting dogs in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere.

The program is sponsored by the Visiting Pet Program.

The program was designed for children who struggle with reading aloud in a group. The dogs offer a calm, accepting presence for the children to practice their reading skills.

In New Orleans, the Reading to Rover program is held on the second Thursday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Keller Branch of the New Orleans Public Library. The Keller branch is temporarily in

the Wilson Charter School, 3617 Gen. Pershing St.

In Metairie, the program is offered the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the East Bank Regional Library Children's Department, 4747 West Napoleon Ave.

And in Harvey, the program is held the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Harvey Library Children's Wing, 2751 Manhattan Blvd.



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Fay Schultz, right, holds on to Mozart, a Shih Tzu, as they listen to Jeanne-Marie Rey, 4, left, and Evangeline Labadie, 5, read to them.