

# READING PARTNERS



## About Reading Partners

With average class sizes at high levels, dedicated one to one support with children in schools is limited and volunteers can really help to make a difference. The children volunteers work with are usually chosen because they either need a little extra help or do not get the opportunity to read at home with their parents. Schools welcome any help from volunteers who can sit with a child and support them to read a book.

## Volunteer Role

You will be working with school children to help to improve their literacy and communication skills. This usually takes the form of reading with children either one to one or in small groups, but may also involve helping with comprehension games on the school computer, worksheets or spelling. You won't need to teach them anything new but you'll have a lot of fun helping them and seeing them improve over time.

## Experience and Skills

No experience is needed as you will receive full training.

## How to become a Reading Partner

To set up a Reading Partners partnership in your area, you must have at least five volunteers who can attend a training session for the programme and will volunteer at the same school on a rota basis. Between the group of volunteers you must then be able to commit to supplying at least 2 people per week to visit the school and read with the children which will equate to approximately one reading session per fortnight per volunteer. Please be aware that it can take up to 12 weeks to set up the Reading Partners programme and the start date will usually depend on the school term dates.

Please let us know if you have existing links with a school in your area that you think may be interested in volunteers.



## Time Commitment

You should be able to volunteer for half an hour per week/fortnight from late October to at least mid May (times/days will vary)

## Training

Full training will be given. There is a two hour face to face training session for each group of volunteers. You will learn about literacy in schools, boundaries when working with children and techniques when reading with children and will be held at a location near you. This is followed by an induction at the school.

## DBS Requirements

A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check is required for this volunteer role. This will be carried out online.

The **co-operative**  
volunteer programme

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