



be a book buddy



collaborative reading

Learning to read is rewarding, but it can be hard work. Taking some time out of your day to be with a younger child and talk to them about what they may be reading, or interested in reading, will motivate them to stay on the path to literacy.

The benefits of a book buddy program add social elements of collaboration that may further spark the interest of a child that will not only enhance their fluency and vocabulary, but make reading fun!

materials

- For classroom setting:
 - Books
 - Library card
 - Bookmark (if ongoing)
- For virtual class setting:
 - Access to eLearning
 - Computer (with video)

conversation starters

- Do you enjoy reading?
- Are you currently reading any books?
 - Why did you select this book?
 - Will you catch me up on the story?
 - How do you think it will end?
 - If you could ask the author one thing about the book, what would it be?
- What are some of your favorite books?
 - What made this book interesting?
 - What was your favorite part of the book?
 - Would the book make a cool movie?
- Do you have any books on your wish list?
 - What type of books interest you?
 - Does it help when you can visualize the setting?
 - Is it important that you connect with the characters?

start a ripple of giving

- Gift a child a book, and when they are done reading it, ask them to pass it along to a friend who has not yet read that book.



step 1: plan it!

- Get some friends together, enough for a small class.
- Go to a nearby preschool or elementary school that feeds into your school and ask if you can help some of the younger kids with their reading.
- For virtual tutoring, connect with a nonprofit that organizes tutoring for youth such as: Sandy Springs Mission, Corners Outreach, L'Amistad, Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability (ISDD), Create Your Dreams.

step 2: create it!

- Talk to the teachers you want to help. Figure out how many kids are in each of their classes and for virtual tutoring, how many have access to eLearning tools.
- Work out a time when you want to help each teacher. You might read only one time or in a different teacher's class every week.
- Pick up copies of the books they are reading from the library or a bookstore (and donate the book to the family.)

step 3: do it!

- Read with the kids. You and your volunteers should have one or two book buddies each.
- You may read to them or let them read to you depending on how far along the class has gotten.
- When a child reads to you, encourage them to try sounding out their words or guessing at a word's meaning before correcting them.

