

Reading Buddies



Name _____

What is a reading buddy?

A reading buddy is a good and enthusiastic reader who helps someone younger in school with their reading so that they can become a good and enthusiastic reader too. Being able to read well is essential to understanding what you are learning at school and when you become an adult.

As an older child in school, you can make a huge difference to the younger ones; you know more about school, you remember how it felt when you were younger and maybe even how it feels to struggle with things sometimes! You can be a fantastic role model.

Reading buddies plan their reading sessions so that they have fun and help their partner overcome difficulties. You will use lots of different activities, some of which you will choose yourself. Being helped by another pupil at school is sometimes better and easier for the younger person than working with an adult. If the younger ones feel they can talk to you, and you are a friend to them, they can sometimes feel less embarrassed.

After each reading session you will write down what you have done on a log sheet, your teacher may look at these later.

What should I do if I am worried about someone?

As a reading buddy, you will spend lots of time talking and working with your partner and will get to know them really well. You may even become friends.

It's really important that you keep things private and don't gossip about things your partner might tell you.

BUT you must always tell an adult if:

- Someone is in danger
- Someone is very unhappy or upset
- Someone wants to do something that is unsafe
- Something bad is happening to someone at home
- Someone is being threatened
- Someone is breaking the school rules or the law.

You should let the person know that you will have to tell, and ask if they want to come with you. Don't tell anybody else, but go straight to the adult who supports you. You have to do this as soon as you can.

If you're not sure and you're worried, ask for help!

You can tell the adult what happened without saying who the young person is. The adult will let you know if you have to tell them their name.

NEVER keep it to yourself!

Contract for reading buddies

As a reading buddy, I will...

Show commitment

- I will turn up to my reading sessions for as long as I am a reading buddy
- I will go to any meetings and training my teacher arranges about being a reading leader

Show respect

- I will treat everybody the same, no matter who they are
- I will do my best to be on time
- I will listen carefully to my reading partner when they are speaking or reading aloud
- I will not discuss or gossip about my partner with my friends

Be inspiring

- I will be prepared for my reading sessions
- I will fill in the log sheets about my reading sessions
- I will work as a team with my reading partner
- I will try to be enthusiastic and supportive

Have fun

- I will find out what kinds of exciting things my partner would like to read about
- I will use lots of different kinds of reading materials and activities
- I will read to my reading partner
- I will read together with my reading partner

And finally

- If I'm not sure or worried about someone, I will ask for help.

I have read these statements and I will try my best to do these things.

Signature _____ Date _____

What do confident readers do?

This is a list of some of the things that good readers do. You will probably do all of these things without even realising! You should try to help your partner to do these things.

- Look carefully at the illustrations and pictures
- Use letter sounds/blends to build words
- Look for words within words
- Break down large words into syllables
- Use the punctuation to get meaning from the text
- Read to the end of the sentence to get a tricky word
- Listen to what they are reading to hear if it makes sense
- Re-read when they have not understood
- Read more slowly to give themselves time to think about a problem area
- Self correct
- Are not afraid to make a sensible guess
- Keep going when they encounter difficulties
- Predict what will happen next
- Ask questions and pass judgements
- Use expression in their voice
- Read fluently and let the words flow

How reading buddies can help

- Talk about what you are going to read together
- Discuss the cover, blurb, topic, title, author before starting
- Talk 'with' not 'at' your partner
- Let your reading partner hold the book/magazine
- Don't prompt too quickly, give them time to work out the word
- If the reader is really stuck, give the word and move on
- Don't let them struggle to sound out words which are not spelt phonetically
- Model reading - read aloud to your partner
- If necessary, reading buddies re-read a sentence with expression, this makes it easier to get the meaning
- Make a list of new or 'problem' words
- Expect good results and try hard
- Have three things to do each session
- Share what went well with your teachers
- Check with each other what seems to work
- Share the reading, plays are good for this
- Ask questions about what has happened and to predict what may happen next
- Ask helpful questions and help each other to find possible answers
- Encourage your reading partner to read
- Please share or take over the reading if your partner is struggling or becoming tired
- When you read, put expression and enthusiasm into your voice
- Give praise and ideas for improvement - think carefully about what to say.
- **If you are not enjoying yourself, your partner probably isn't either!**

Asking questions

Reading buddies ask questions to make sure that reading partners understand what they are reading about. There are many different types of questions and you should try to use the different types. Encourage your partner to ask you questions too. If we don't understand nor get any meaning from what we read, there is no point in reading in the first place!

Asking the right sorts of questions will make the difference between making good progress and staying at the same standard.

When we use the word 'text' this could be a book, magazine, poem, newspaper article, leaflet...in fact anything that contains words!

You can help your reading partner to find the meaning and understand the texts they read by helping them with these targets:

- Say what a text you have read is about
- Answer questions about the text
- Create questions about the text
- Go back and find a piece of information
- Predict what could happen next
- Put the main events in order
- Discuss how the text is laid out
- Discuss what the author is trying to tell us

See your extra sheet for additional question ideas.

Reading sessions

Every session with your partner should last for around 30 minutes.

During every session you should try and do at least 3 different things. You should plan these in advance.

You should start by having a quick chat to see how your partner is, then...

1. Reading Aloud

Ask your partner to read aloud. This could be a school reading book or a book of choice. You can take turns reading; remember to ask questions to check your partner understands what they are reading. Give help when necessary and give lots of praise.

2. Reading Activity

You will be choosing your own activities. If the activity involves writing, it may be helpful if you do the writing as your partner comes up with ideas.

3. Word/reading game

To finish the session you should play a fun, short game together.

Examples include:

- Hangman
- Describing/guessing game
- Word ladders
- Top trumps
- Making small words from big words (e.g. How many words in 'reading buddies'? red, read, is, dare, are...)
- Dictionary whizz - how quickly can you find a letter or word?

Reading buddy log sheet

You should keep a record of what you and your partner have done together to share with your teachers.

You should record what you do in your session on a log sheet. Reasons for writing log sheets:

- You will understand the impact you are having on your partner
- You will identify the areas that they find difficult
- You will see the areas where your partner is making progress
- They will help you to plan your sessions
- You can look back at what you have done together
- Your teachers can see all the fantastic activities you have done together
- You will see how brilliant you are!

Planning your reading sessions

Planning different activities during your session means that your reading partner has a chance to try out different reading skills and widen their reading experiences. Your partner can help with the planning of the sessions.

Choose different activities each time to complete with your partner. You will then have a different focus each time. Don't worry if some of the activities take longer than one session, it is better to do some high quality work than to rush.

You should share the writing (if needed) with your partner - don't make them do lots of writing. When you write, make sure it is clear and legible.

Remember, in each session:

1. Reading aloud
2. Activity
3. Game

Then fill in a log sheet.

If the reading or activity is too hard for your partner, even with your help, then change the activity.

Some hints and tips

- Plan ahead
- Base your activities on what your partner is interested in
- Remember you are a role model
- Use lots of different activities and a wide range of reading resources
- Use short books
- Read aloud to your reading partner
- Look at the blurb and the cover of books
- Don't be afraid to stop if you think the activity is too hard
- Say 'we' not 'you'
- Build up a word bank of new words
- If you are not enjoying yourself, your partner probably isn't either!

Activities and resources

- Using a dictionary or thesaurus
- Joke books
- Days out leaflets
- Reading a play - maybe act it out
- Using a map, A to Z, Atlas, TV guide
- Making up stories
- Scanning/skimming a newspaper or magazine, e.g. First News, National Geographic Kids
- Recipe books, Crosswords and Word Search, you could make your own at puzzlement.com
- Looking at football results/train and bus timetables
- Guinness Book of Records/Ripley's - Believe it or not!
- Holiday brochures/catalogues
- Take away menus
- Looking at non-fiction books
- Choose your own adventure stories
- Magazines - sport, fashion, comics
- Observation books, Where's Wally, Spot the Difference
- Poetry - reading and writing your own poems together
- Making up new song lyrics
- Reading and looking at picture books
- Pretend to interview your favourite footballer/ pop star
- Even the back of a cereal packet!

Don't forget you can make your own!

Examples of short games

- Hangman
- Word ladder: start with a 3 letter word, take it in turns to change one letter, e.g.
Pin
Pit
Pat
Pan
Tan
Ten
Hen
- How many words in another word (e.g. the name of your school)
- Top Trumps
- Play Boggle
- Use Scrabble letters to make words
- Describing/guessing game
- Dictionary whizz - how quickly can you find a letter/word
- Acrostic poem: using a name/animal/school

How to listen

Listening isn't just about opening your ears!

Pretend Listening - you only hear key words and phrases, you may guess at the main meaning or plan a reply whilst your partner is still speaking.

Passive Listening - you are listening to your partner but not becoming involved. You may not be concentrating on what they are saying.

Active Listening - you should try your best to be an active listener. Active listening happens when you and your partner are both involved. The listener is paying attention and is alert, asks questions and joins in.

Some tips:

Be friendly - smile when you are talking. This shows that you are interested.

Face your partner and use your eyes - don't stare, but do look at people. This shows them that you are listening.

If your partner looks to the side a lot, this could mean that they feel nervous. If they look down a lot, this could mean they feel very shy.

Try not to interrupt - let your partner speak when they are ready and give them as much time as they need.

Ask helpful questions - ask questions that help you to help your partner.

Don't talk down to your partner - they may be younger, but you are still equals!

Relax - use open body language, with your arms uncrossed.

Achievements

Possible achievements by the end of your partnership:

- We read lots of books together and can talk about them
- We completed lots of different activities
- We read magazines, newspapers and comics
- We looked at and discussed leaflets about days out
- We played word games to build up our word banks
- We practised writing some new words and drew pictures alongside
- We wrote some rhymes and poems about what is happening in our lives
- We used a dictionary and thesaurus to find new words and meanings
- We made up a new word game
- We acted out a short play
- We pretended to be a famous person and interviewed each other
- We created a display of our work
- We explained what we have done to help each other

Enjoy your new role!