

TIPS

from our Reading Buddy Teens to you!

- If you're enthusiastic when you're reading to the kids, it makes the story better.
- You should come with a good attitude.
- Don't let the kids play with Gameboys or do other outside activities.
- Incentives (e.g., candy, raisins, pretzels) help some of the kids settle down to read, especially helpful when they've been outside playing before they come in!
- Pick books you really like, or else it's hard to be very convincing when you try to make it sound like fun to the kids you read to.
- Sometimes kids are shy and you have to go up to them and ask if they want to read.
- Be prepared for anything.
- You might think this is a structured group, but it's not.
- Include non-fiction because some of the kids love it, especially snake and animal books!
- Not our place to be rigid, or super strict. As long as they're looking at books, don't insist that they read with you.
- When you sit, sit with the kids. It puts you in a better position to read to them when it's time to read together.
- Curious George works great! (Ditto for Dr. Seuss and Arthur books)
- Poetry is fun.
- They love folktales.
- They don't always like what you like, so you should bring a variety of books.
- Let the kids judge their reading level- don't decide for them what they can and can't read.
- Just help them if they need help, or offer to take turns reading.

Annotated Bibliography

The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research,
2nd edition, by Stephen D. Krashen. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited ; Portsmouth,
NH : Heinemann, 2004.

Krashen makes the case for free voluntary reading and explores research surrounding the role of school and public libraries.

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TeensPoint.org

#8999

READING BUDDIES!

Teen Volunteers reading with kids



Engaging Teens Conference 2008
Rhonda Belyea

Reading Buddies

at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library

- WHO:** Reading Buddies is a specialized group of volunteers, grade 9-12, who have expressed interest in working directly with children.
- WHAT:** Reading Buddies is part of the Headquarters Youth Services department's outreach to community organizations in our area. Teens are trained to read with children in a manner that allows the children to grow as readers. The teens act as reading mentors to the kids, showing them that reading is fun and enjoyable.
- WHEN:** Reading Buddies began in 2000. We go out together once a week during the summer season and a couple of times each month during the school year.
- WHERE:** Primarily at the local Boys and Girls Club
- WHY:** Training teens to come along with us has essentially extended the efforts of the library staff. In addition, we have garnered good will with the children who love having the cool teens to read to, as well as with area teens that are eager to read with young children.
- HOW:** Visits with the Boys and Girls Club are geared to one or more specific grade levels, Kindergarten through grade 8. Following a short program presented by the Youth Services librarian, the children break into Reading Buddy groups.

Reading Buddies Training

(allow one hour)

- 1) Becoming a reader. What do you remember about becoming a reader? Re-visit your early memories of learning to read, and some great stories come out of this!
- 2) Finding books. Let's go to the shelves and find some of your old favorites and a few new ones, too. We always bring along books from our library's collections of Juvenile Fiction and Juvenile Non-fiction.
- 3) We are not reading teachers. We are here to model the fun that can come from reading! If a child is stuck on a word, don't make them sound it out, just give it to them. Sometimes reading "together" out loud helps. You can lead them along by saying the word a half a second before they do. This is all about having fun while reading and letting the children see teens enjoying reading.
- 4) Chat and Negotiate. Take a minute to learn the child's name and age and tell them yours, too. Next, offer choices, such as, "Would you like to read, or shall I? Do you want to take turns?" Then, be prepared to step in and help, or step back and let the kid fly! Definitely, be encouraging!
- 5) Be flexible! If the book just isn't working after a few pages, acknowledge it. "You know, we could pick a different book if you'd like."
- 6) Have fun! The more fun you and the child have together, the more they will see books as a positive thing. Use dramatic voices when appropriate. If the book is funny, laugh with the child! If the child wants to discuss the story as you go along or predict what happens next, go with it!
- 7) Kids who read for pleasure become better readers AND writers. Students from two different reading groups were compared. In the first group the students had only drills & worksheets; the second group had only free reading time, no drills. The second group did as well or better than those in the first group. (pp. 2-6 *The Power of Reading* by Stephen D. Krashen)

- Each visit will focus on two age groups and we will meet with no more than 15 kids in each of the 2 sessions per visit.
- Reading Buddies should arrive no later than 3:30 to select books. We will return no later than 5:20.
- Times for programs 4:00-4:30; 4:30-5:00

Dates	Staff	Reading Buddies Name	Phone	E-mail
Mon, 10/22 Gr 6-8, Gr k	Rhonda			
Fri, 11/9 Gr 4 & 5	Rhonda			
Mon, 11/12 Gr 6-8, Gr 1	Rhonda			
Mon., 11/19 Gr 2 & 3	Rhonda			
Mon, 12/3 Gr 1 & 2	Rhonda			
Fri, 12/7 Gr 3 & 4	Jody			
Mon, 12/10 Gr 6-8, Gr 5	Rhonda			

SAMPLE TRAVEL PERMISSION FORM

June 20, 2007

I give permission for my child, _____,
to ride in the library's van in order to be a Reading Buddy/volunteer assistant at library programs. These programs will be held at summer camps in the Fredericksburg area.

signature

printed name