

Reading Buddy Overview

The Reading Buddy Program is an opportunity for children to experience the magic of reading in a safe and welcoming place. It's meant to encourage a young reader's interest in books and improve their reading skills through one-on-one dedicated reading time. This program is offered in both **English** and **French**.

This is where a Reading Buddy comes in. A Reading Buddy is a positive role model who inspires a child to enjoy reading by having fun with them and talking with them about the story. This plus a brief time of play after reading helps struggling or reluctant readers to gain confidence over the course of eight weeks.

Families register their child or children for this program, and volunteers generally read with two children each week of the session. Each child/buddy spends ½ hour together.

Sessions

Four 8-week sessions per year:

- Spring, Fall, and Winter sessions run Tuesday afternoons from 3:45 to 5pm
- Summer sessions run 1x/wk. (day/time determined as session approaches)
- Virtual sessions (when active) run Tuesday afternoons between 3 and 6pm, with volunteers spending 1 hour somewhere within that span

Volunteers are:

- students or adults
- reliable (show up for all scheduled shifts, on time); open to considering more than one session
- encouragers and good role models
- promoters of the library as a place to learn and have fun
- lovers of reading

Training:

- both the Coordinator of Volunteer Services and the Children's Program Coordinator work closely together to ensure a rewarding volunteer experience
- training is provided prior to the start of the session, and via ongoing check-ins throughout the 8 weeks