



Read to a Child

VOLUNTEER READING MENTOR DESCRIPTION READ ALOUD MENTORING PROGRAM (RAMP)

Description: In Read to a Child's Read Aloud Mentoring Program, an adult is partnered one-on-one with a student attending one of our partner elementary schools for a rewarding, weekly read aloud experience where the mentor reads aloud to the student while they eat lunch. Two volunteers can pair up to each read every other week if desired. The student/mentor relationship typically lasts for the entire school year and often extends for multiple years through the end of fourth grade. Reading pairs are supported by an on-site Program Coordinator, employed by Read to a Child, and are provided access to a wide selection of appropriate books to read. The simple act of reading aloud to a child once a week, over time, can have a profound impact on the child's future. Our capacity for Community Volunteers is limited to in person sessions, so applicants need to determine which of our physical locations is most convenient.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Reliably procure transportation to and from school
- Reliably arrive five minutes early for your session
- Communicate with Program Coordinator as soon as possible if you are going to be late or absent
- Select books based on what you are learning about your student
- Enthusiastically greet your student and move to the designated reading area
- Read books aloud to your student, discuss content, and build a relationship with your student
- Commit to weekly or biweekly (if you are alternating with another volunteer) sessions through the school year, except school holidays/closures.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Ability and willingness to complete online application, screening, and online training
- Ability to read aloud, fluently and with clarity, in English
- Ability to fulfill responsibilities of a mentor in a 1-on-1 setting, w/or without reasonable accommodations
- Ability and willingness to build a positive relationship with a student, express empathy, and to work towards making sessions enjoyable and rewarding
- Willingness and ability to follow all Read to a Child policies
- Reliable access to email and text messaging for mentor communications, scheduling, and urgent volunteer session updates
- Ability to move from mode of transportation to session location and remain in a stationary position for the session. Parking availability and session location vary by school
- Comfortable working within a busy, crowded and sometimes loud environment

Desired Experience: Experience with elementary age children is helpful but not required.

Time Commitment: 30 mins weekly (every other if alternating with another volunteer), plus transport time.

Diversity Statement: Read to a Child is committed to providing resources to children most impacted by systemic inequalities. We have faith in our students' ability to thrive and choose to focus on their strengths rather than the barriers they face. We are motivated to continuously act on our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion among reading mentors, staff, and board members so as to best reflect and support the students we serve.