

Virtual Reading Buddies Teen Orientation – Zoom Edition

Staffing: Facilitated by Program Facilitator(s) and Technical Host; one staff person per five teens.

Equipment:

- Teens are expected to use their own devices. Phones not recommended due to small screen size.
- Staff need one iPad per two teens. Laptop (ideal) or iPad each for Program Facilitator and Technical Host.
- Headset for each staff person.

Space: Enough space to accommodate two-three staff plus the necessary equipment.

30 minutes prior to program:

- Set up iPad stations
 - Each staff person should have a maximum of five iPads; turn off iPad volume before logging iPad into Zoom.
 - Set the Zoom name for each iPad to VPL Staff – NAME – 1, and so forth.
 - Put iPads into Breakout Rooms.
 - Pull up link to RB reading resources list on each iPad.
 - Plug headsets into primary device, which will be left in the Living Room.

Program Explanation: (30-35 minutes)

Welcome!

- This is Reading Buddies, a fun and informal reading support program that pairs Big Buddies in grades 8-12 with Little Buddies in grades 2-4. This is not a tutoring service; there are no achievement expectations.

Paperwork

- Community Service Hours tracking
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Letters of Confirmation

Intros

- Cohost leads group through intros
- Host assigns teens to Breakout Rooms
 - Teens do NOT join BRs yet

What we anticipate a typical Reading Buddies session will look like:

- Log on at least five minutes prior to the start of the meeting; hosts will let you in before your Little Buddies.
- You will be assigned to a Breakout Room; please don't join right away.

- Link to the Reading Buddies book list will be in the chat; please bring the site up on your browser so you have it ready for the program.
- Greet your Little Buddy in the Chat as they arrive.
- Cohost will give you the reminders of how to reach a staff person while host assigns Little Buddies to the Breakout Rooms.
- Enter the Breakout Room with your Little Buddy once hosts give you the go-ahead.
- Share your screen with the Overdrive list; let your buddy choose a book.
- Read together.
- Play games together.
- Signal a staff person if you need help.
- Breakout Rooms will close; Little Buddies will be dismissed.
- Time for debrief; write down the books you read with your Little Buddy.
- Big Buddies dismissed.

Differences in the First Session:

- Staff will go through the introductions and expectations with the whole group.
- Once you and your Buddy are in the Breakout Rooms you will introduce yourselves to each other and complete the “Getting to Know Your Buddy” activity.
- You will spend less time reading together than in later sessions.

Activity #1 – Expectations of a Reading Buddy (10 mins)

- Share your Whiteboard and ask the teens to brainstorm/write down important qualities and characteristics of a good Big Buddy.
 - They can type in the chat if they are unable to use the Whiteboard (hosts can monitor and add chat contributions to the Whiteboard).
- Refer to table below for any missed points
 - Stress comfort of little buddies

Your buddy will be happy if you...

- Are attentive to him/her. Listen to what he/she has to say
- Are interested in your buddy. Ask about his/her activities
- Are on time and committed to the program
- say that he/she did a great job
- Say “hi” every time and that you are happy to see your buddy
- Are honest. Say if you don’t know something. You can look it up together or ask a librarian for help
- Let your buddy make choices about what to read, make suggestions where appropriate
- Read together with him/her. This is not a time to read alone.

(Reading Buddies Training Teens)

Things to remember about reading with kids:

- Your Little Buddy should do most of the reading but sometimes it’s fun to take turns and read together.

- Ask questions: what do you think will happen next? why did they go into the dark room? what did you like/dislike about the story? etc.
- Look up words your Little Buddy does not know.
- If a Buddy enjoys a book feel free to search for more books by that author.
- If your Buddy is getting restless, take some time out to play word games or draw on the Whiteboard together.
- Encourage questions.

Activity #2 – Practice Reading Buddies session (40-45 minutes)

- Each pair will enter their Breakout Room and take turns playing the roles of Big and Little Buddy.
- 20 minutes per teen; staff will send a message to all when it's time for them to switch over.
- Each person needs to practice:
 - Sharing their screen with the Overdrive list
 - Big Buddy shares their screen; Little Buddy picks the book; read at least two books together by taking turns reading the pages; try to pick a picture and a chapter book.
 - Sharing a website game and playing together
 - Big Buddy shares their screen and navigates the website; Little Buddy participates in the game.
 - Sharing the Whiteboard and drawing/playing a game together
 - Big Buddy shares their screen; both Buddies should be able to annotate/draw on the Whiteboard; practice clearing the board and using some of the functions.
 - Looking for a book on the VPL website.
 - Big Buddy shares their screen and navigates the VPL catalogue; Little Buddy chooses book.
- Big Buddies should narrate as they work; this keeps their Little Buddy informed and also provides an audible connection between the Buddies.
 - “I am just going to bring up the book list now...here we go...you can pick a book from this list...would you like me to scroll down? Let's move on to something new...I'm just going to share my Whiteboard...one moment...I'm having a bit of trouble...I think we may need to ask a staff person for help...I'm going to send them a message...I just saw that they will be closing the Breakout Rooms soon...did you see that too? Do you have any questions before we leave?”
- Staff will close the Breakout Rooms after 50 mins.

Debrief with the group (10-15 minutes)

- Use 2 breakout rooms if desired/you have a larger group of Buddies.

Dismiss the Buddies.