

Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies is a program in which two children read together. In our school Year 5 children read with Year 3 children twice a week. A Reading Buddies program can help model good reading. As with any skill, reading needs to be practiced on a regular basis and with this practice, as well as modelling, children can improve their skills.

A reading buddies program allows older pupils the opportunity to develop fluency as well as a sense of pride in their accomplishments. It can not only promote good practices but raise self-esteem. In addition, they often come to see the value of reading. Repeatedly reading easier books has been shown to improve reading abilities in poor readers, and this program provides children with a reason to read easier books.

Reading to younger pupils can help children develop a love of reading and a greater motivation to read. Younger pupils should also read to their older buddies each week, as this allows younger readers to feel a sense of accomplishment while they build fluency.

Because the program provides success in literacy, children often become more positive about their ability to read and may also improve their reading skills. Ideally, buddy visits will be ongoing, and older and younger pupils will become familiar with one another and nurture a mutual interest in reading.

The reading buddy session lasts for about 15 min. It consists of a phonics game, sharing and discussing a book and a short activity. Reading buddies are carefully paired and they work together for a full term. At the end of the term they celebrate their achievements and Big Buddies hand their Little Buddies a certificate during worship.