

Kids who read **SUCCEED**

"The links between literacy, the ability to read and write the printed word, school performance, self-esteem and adult life chances have been widely documented ... poor literacy skills are associated with generally lower education, employment, health and social outcomes as well as being linked to high rates of welfare dependence and teenage parenting."

(Centre for Community Child Health, 2004).

**Become
a reading
buddy at a
local primary
school...**

**...and
make a difference
in a child's life.**

**Watch a video clip of Reading
Buddies in action at a local
Wimmera primary school at
llen.com.au/reading-buddies**



The MATES Reading Buddies Program was developed by Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN.



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Find out more at www.llen.com.au/reading-buddies

Share your love of reading



**mates
Reading Buddies**

**Make a difference
in a child's life!**

Volunteers needed

mates Reading Buddies

What is MATES Reading Buddies?

Reading Buddies is a program that provides volunteer adults to listen to students from P-6 read at the child's school. Volunteers listen to children read one-on-one on a regular basis in a local primary school.

Who can be a MATES Reading Buddy?

Anyone can be a reading buddy. Age is no barrier. We welcome retirees, stay at home parents, working professionals and anybody who loves and values reading. We also encourage secondary college students to be reading buddies as part of school volunteering programs and also tertiary students who may use Reading Buddies as part of their studies in teaching or child care.

What training is provided?

Volunteer reading buddies are given a brief one-hour induction that covers some basic tips and strategies for reading with a young person. It also covers some issues of confidentiality and contact details for volunteers wanting further support.

A Working With Children check is required before a volunteer can become a Reading Buddy. Assistance can be provided to acquire this.

What time commitment is expected?

Most schools run Reading Buddies five days a week. Reading Buddies sessions will last for approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Volunteers can come in for one morning a week or up to five mornings a week.

Could I be a Reading Buddy?

-  I enjoy reading
-  I enjoy spending time with children
-  I have at least 1 spare hour per week
-  I would like to make a difference in a young person's life
-  I already have, or can obtain a Working With Children Check

Yes!

...reading is arguably the single most important thing that can be done to influence positive outcomes in young people's lives – socially, culturally, educationally and economically.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2012

Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labelled: "This could change your life."

— Helen Exley

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

— Jacqueline Kennedy

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.

— Walt Disney

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

— Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

