Incorporating Your Reading Volunteers

...What can they do in the classroom?

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Parental and Community Classroom Involvement...

• shows children the home school connection
• support from home leads to rested kids with completed homework and academic purpose
• may help schools with overall community rapport including the implementation of programs such as Book-It or Adopt-A-Highway, etc.
• may lead to increased SAC and PTA membership
Do you need to recruit?

- Develop a questionnaire
- Provide examples of what you need
- Civic organizations, etc.
Dear Parents:

Helping your child realize the value of education is extremely important. Your presence at school is one way to show your love and encouragement.

Our school's mission is to create an educational environment in which students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential, and the academic, social, and developmental needs of each student are met. We are looking for volunteers to help us with that awesome task.

The children and I invite you to come to school to volunteer your time and talents. We will value you as a volunteer, and appreciate your dedication to the children as a supportive aide, role model, and mentor.

We know your time is at a premium, but we hope this invitation will empower you to come in and volunteer. Please feel free to contact me with a time to volunteer that is convenient for you.

Thank you again for volunteering your time and talents! Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children.

Sincerely,
(Your name)
Once you have those volunteers...

- Keep a database of names, numbers and area of expertise (what the parent or community member says AND what you think!)
- Plan a schedule for volunteers
- Volunteer guidelines vary from school and district. All proper documentation must be completed before volunteering.
- Invite them in to observe a reading lesson and reading centers. Every classroom has its own flow...
I have the volunteer in the classroom ... what’s next?

- the teacher must set the tone and introduce the volunteer before he or she begins interacting with anyone in the class.
- Inform the volunteer of the length of time they are needed for today and what you’re going to be doing now and next.
- Inform them of what to do if a student doesn’t cooperate.
- Location of materials, students to work with, etc.
Using Volunteers During the 90-Minute Reading Block

- Center/Station Support
- Setting Up Games (original or program-based)
- Helping students rotate stations (after the volunteer understands the rotations!)
- Materials Management at stations
- Partner Reading with the volunteer
- Sight Word Recognition Practice
- Timed Fluency Checks (after support from teacher)
Resources in your folder

- Bookmark Template
- Reciprocal Teaching Strategies/questions for volunteers to ask students during the reading block
- Complete blank graphic organizers or Thinking Maps™
- Create Concept Cards to help students learn vocabulary words related to a story or unit
Using Volunteers Outside of the 90-Minute Reading Block

- Assist students using the computer (especially helpful in lower grade levels)
- Volunteers can type student work to be published
- Assist with binding, etc. when publishing student writing
- Help children visit the library and select books at his or her appropriate reading level
- Read books aloud during transitions in the classroom
- Help Media Specialist plan the Book Fair
A more structured approach...

Once a week for 45 minutes to help 2nd graders become stronger and more successful readers.

- the entire class participates with a volunteer at the same time
- the teacher is in the classroom during the session for support
- 3 to 4 children reading at the same level are paired with the same volunteer every week
- a structured curriculum is used by the volunteers and students
- volunteers act as cheerleaders for their students' success!
- Every week, volunteers and students work on reading, comprehension, and fluency.
Another structured approach...

- Volunteers must receive training from HOSTS staff
- begin scheduled thirty-minute tutoring sessions with their assigned students.
- follows a carefully designed lesson plan generated by the HOSTS teacher from a comprehensive database that aligns the curriculum to local objectives.
- The individualized lesson plan is structured to match each child's age, assessed needs, reading level and learning style.
- The mentor and student quickly establish common ground, which leads to a productive relationship.
- The child receives nurturing and encouragement that is necessary for success.
Time invested up front with reading volunteers can make a big difference!
References


