

# Reading Buddy Guidelines

## What's a Big Buddy?

Big Buddies are students in grades 6-12 who become a mentor to a younger child (their Little Buddy), meeting once a week to read together and play reading-related games.

## Reading Buddies:

Are reliable, creative, kind students who love books.  
Enjoy spending time with younger children.  
Take turns reading aloud with their Little Buddies.  
Play games and do activities with their Little Buddies.  
Show their Little Buddies reading is fun and rewarding!

## What do Big Buddies get out of this experience?

A great volunteer experience that you can put on your resume and college applications.  
The joy of helping a younger child read and succeed.  
The opportunity to work with other teen volunteers in carrying out games and other fun activities.  
A chance to develop your leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills.

## How does it work?

You will be paired with one student in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade (your "Little Buddy"). The two of you will meet once a week at the same time for shared reading, literacy-related games, and other activities.

The first meeting consists of a mandatory training session where you will learn techniques for sharing books, familiarize yourself with the books and materials in our collection, and get to know the other Big Buddies.

## I'm interested. What do I have to do?

Submit the Reading Buddy application and the Time Slot Availability Form to the Teen Librarian..  
Attend an interview with the Reading Buddies Coordinator (New applicants only.)  
Attend a training session (mandatory for new applicants, optional for returning Big Buddies):  
Commit to attending every week and arriving on time, unless the Reading Buddies coordinator is notified in advance.

## Questions?

Please contact the Scranton Library Teen Librarian at 203-245-7365

## Ready to apply?

Both the Reading Buddy application and the Time Slot Availability Form are available online ([www.scrantonlibrary.org/teens](http://www.scrantonlibrary.org/teens)) and in the Teen Section.

# Information for Little Buddies

Reading Buddies is designed to give your child extra reading practice with a caring teen mentor and to make the reading experience fun. Reading Buddies is not a tutoring service for your child. Teen Reading Buddy volunteers are not trained or expected to correct learning problems.

## Who can participate?

Students in grades K-3 are eligible.

Students must be able to attend all--or almost all--of the meetings.

Students' parent or guardian must remain in the library during the meetings.

Little Buddies will be admitted to the program on a first-come, first-serve basis, so apply early!

## Who are the Big Buddies?

Students in grades 6-12 can volunteer to be Reading Buddies. Typically, they are teens who love reading, enjoy working with younger children, and want to give back to their community. They receive training before and during the program.

## What do the Buddies do?

Your child and his/her Buddy will take turns reading aloud.

They talk about their books and may do activities connected to the material.

They might also play some reading-related games.

## I'd like my child to have a Big Buddy. What do I need to do?

Applications are available online ([www.scrantonlibrary.org/teens](http://www.scrantonlibrary.org/teens)) and at the Teen Desk.

## When will Reading Buddies take place?

We are now offering Reading Buddies Monday-Friday.

## Important Attendance Policies

A parent or caregiver must remain in the library (though not with the buddy pair) during the reading session.

We ask that you and your child make a commitment to attend ALL of the scheduled meetings. If you must miss a meeting because of illness or a schedule conflict, please notify the Teen Librarian as far in advance as possible.

Please arrive on time to each meeting;.

## Questions?

Please call the Scranton Library Teen Librarian at 203-245-7365.

## Ready to apply?

Submit the Little Buddies application and the Time Slot availability Form, (available online at [www.scrantonlibrary.org/teens](http://www.scrantonlibrary.org/teens) and at the Scranton Library Teen Desk) to the Teen Librarian.

***The Reading Buddies Program is a  
project of the Scranton Library  
Teen Advisory Group (T.A.G.)***

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