

Time to Read is a reading enhancement initiative managed by Business in the Community Ireland. Time to Read is Ireland's first business to education reading initiative. It provides 2nd class (7-9 year old) children with the opportunity to receive reading support from a business volunteer over a 24 week programme.

"Literacy is among the most important life skills that our schools teach. No child should leave school without having mastered these skills to the best of their abilities. Literacy skills are crucial to a person's ability to develop fully as an individual, to live a satisfying and rewarding life and to participate fully in our society. Ensuring that all young people acquire this skill is one of the greatest contributions that we can make to achieving social justice and equity in our country."

Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education & Skills

TIMEto..... READ



4 Key Objectives

enjoyment

To increase the enjoyment of reading

confidence

To increase confidence in reading

self-discovery

To improve and encourage self-discovery

comprehension

To improve fluency and comprehension

One in ten children in Irish schools has serious difficulty with reading or writing; in some disadvantaged schools this is as high as almost one in three students and Time to Read is helping to reduce this statistic.

For more information:
Visit: www.bitc.ie

or contact
The Schools' Business Partnership on
(01) 874 3809
or email: sbp@bitc.ie

Our Strategic Partner
The ESB through its Energy for Generations Fund is Time to Read's strategic partner and sponsor 2013 – 2015.

Ireland's most innovative employee engagement programme



TIME to READ

- 10 volunteers trained by Business in the Community Ireland
- Volunteer reads for an hour per week with 2 children (30 mins each)
- 24 week programme (volunteers do 12 weeks each)
 - Including exciting library visits & workplace visits
 - Parents invited to library to encourage family memberships

In 2013 we evaluated the programme with teachers, specialists and volunteers and we came back with these remarkable results showing strong evidence of significant impact.

Feedback from:	Teachers	HSCL*	Volunteers
Increased the enjoyment of reading	92%	100%	92%
Increased confidence in reading	99%	100%	98%
Improved and encouraged self-discovery	100%	100%	83%
Improved fluency and comprehension when reading	99%	92%**	92%

*HSCL (Home School Community Liaison) **8% of HSCL felt they could not comment

99% of teachers said it improved children's fluency and comprehension

Real success stories...

"It was a very fulfilling project and I had a brilliant time listening to and helping the children I was reading with. I would love to be a part of this programme again next year."

(KPMG volunteer)

"It was great to work with a team from Elavon and I got to know people that I would not deal with on a day to day basis. This assisted my interpersonal skills with co-workers and also the teachers in the school. In terms of listening skills & communication skills, I had to listen to the boys carefully, not jump in too quickly when they stumbled on a word, this improved my listening skills & self awareness."

(Elavon Financial Services Ltd. volunteer)

"It exceeded my expectations, I did not realise the impact that it would have on the children and even ourselves.

It makes you proud that these kids look up to us and delighted that our company was a part of such a great programme."

(Inishowen Engineering Donegal volunteer)

"Last September 2012, 2 out of the 17 pupils in my class would have enjoyed reading books in their spare time; now that number has increased to 10 out of 17 pupils. I believe that this is due to Time to Read as well as our whole school English programme."

(Teacher)



"The individual attention and consistency has improved their fluency. The discussion the volunteers had with the children following their reading session allowed them to talk about what they had read and I can notice a marked improvement in their comprehension."

(Teacher)

"Both children and volunteers gain so much from Time to Read. Not only does it bring an improvement in reading but it also has a great impact in the development of social skills and confidence in the children. The children now have a great attitude and energy towards reading. Some of the children have joined the library since they visited with the 'Time to Read' programme. One of the children now enjoys reading stories to his younger siblings."

(Home School Community Liaison Teacher)