Company Brief

What is Time to Read?

Time to Read is a wonderful employee engagement opportunity for company volunteers to provide one to one reading support to 7-8 year old children in a local disadvantaged primary school. At present 50 businesses participate and it is growing rapidly.

The objectives of the programme are to:

* Increase the child’s enjoyment of reading
* Improve the child’s fluency and comprehension when reading
* Increase the child’s confidence in reading
* Improve and encourage the child’s self-discovery

Volunteer commitment

* Volunteers are paired at the start of the programme, and are allocated two children who they read with for the duration of the programme.
* Volunteers commit to spend one hour per week in the school for a total of 10 weeks (in two five week blocks), reading with 2 children for 30 minutes each.
* To act as a back-up for their paired colleague during the other ten weeks, and keep each other informed on their students’ progress.
* Attend the 2.5 hour training session provided by Business in the Community Ireland
* Complete Garda Vetting process and forms
* Be reliable, patient and consistent.
* Attend the feedback sessions.
* Attend a library visit and the workplace visit.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone can volunteer for the Time to Read Programme, particularly, if they enjoy reading and can relate positively to children.

Benefits to the Volunteer

* The satisfaction of helping children and having a significant impact in their lives.
* The joy of seeing a young child develop and acquire a love of reading books.
* The opportunity to learn new skills or enhance existing ones.
* The experience of a meaningful engagement in their local community.
* Add diversity to their day to day work.
* Meet new people within their organisation.

Training

Volunteers are trained so that they are prepared and confident when they start reading with the children. On-going support for the volunteers will be provided throughout the year by BITC Ireland and the school staff. This will include two feedback and support sessions.

The training will provide clear guidelines on:

* Reading strategies
* Relationship building
* Tips for success
* School policies and procedures
* Child protection
* Record keeping

Benefits to company include:

* High quality employee engagement initiative
* Contributes to company’s CR strategy
* Raises company’s profile within the local community
* Builds partnerships with local schools
* Improves employee’s communication and coaching skills
* Motivates employees and enhances teamwork

Company Resource Commitment:

Personnel:

10-14 Employee Volunteers and a Company Coordinator to facilitate the partnership together with

the School and BITC Ireland.

Schedule:

The programme runs for a minimum of 20 weeks (usually October – December and January – June).

The programme schedule is agreed in advance and volunteers are informed of the details by their Company Coordinator.

Reading Sessions:

The reading sessions happen during the school day. They typically take place outside of the children’s regular classroom. The start of the day has been found to be most suitable time.

Other Sessions:

* 2 feedback and support sessions.
* A library visit which takes approx. 1hour excluding travel.
* A site visit which the Company hosts for the Time to Read children (approx. 1.5 – 2 hours on-site).

Evaluation & Feedback:

Volunteers complete a short weekly log at end of each session and complete an online volunteer evaluation at the end of the programme.

Participation Fee:

€3,100 contribution to cover the full cost of setting up, running, resourcing and evaluating the programme in linked primary school.

For further details on how to sign up or seek further information contact:

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