



## Volunteer Reading Helpers in School

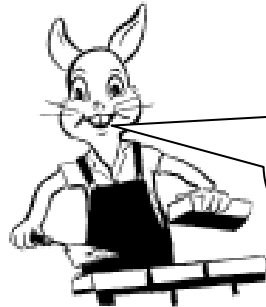
**B**uilding

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Be a St  
Nick Brick!

Hearing children read is essential to reading development. Part of the importance of this activity is the opportunity it provides for a child to enjoy the uninterrupted time and attention of an adult. Helpers in our classrooms are able to concentrate on individual children and reinforce work done by the teacher.



*Your help is greatly appreciated.*

## Establish a Relationship

Make sure you know each child's name.

Encourage them to talk about themselves so that over the weeks you are building up a friendly relationship eg how they are today, interests etc.

Try to keep the experience as pleasant as possible. Refer any inappropriate behaviour or concerns straight to the class teacher.

Remember to praise the child whenever possible, and please don't talk about the children's reading with anyone but the appropriate member of staff.



## How to Proceed

- For the most part the child will be reading to you. Use your judgement for a suitable place to stop. Don't feel it should be two pages only-read for the story. Both you and the child should feel relaxed so you enjoy quality time together. It is not expected that you rush through a book.
- If a child is reading fluently, occasionally suggest they read the next few pages to themselves and then use your time to discuss what they have read. Do not expect perfect recall but do praise evidence of reading for meaning.
- If a child is struggling, occasionally read along with them. This will keep the story going and will boost the child's confidence.

## How to Help With Mistakes

Listen carefully so that you can make a judgement about the nature of the mistakes. If a child reads, "*Jim climbed on his pony*", instead of "*Jim climbed on his horse*", do not interrupt because the child is obviously understanding the print. Reading every word correctly is not essential. Always let a child carry on if it makes sense.



If the mistake does not make sense, stop and ask the child to think about it; always encourage self correction.

## Unknown Words

If a child is not able to read a word at all:-

- Ask the child to use the pictures to tell the story.
- Suggest reading to the end of the sentence and then return to the unknown word. Sometimes they can guess what fits in.
- Ask the child to say the beginning sound.
- Tell the child the beginning sound.
- Sound out the whole word and tell the child the word, then reread the sentence.

Finally, the children and staff at  
Beverley St Nicholas Community  
Primary School would like to say a big

thank you

for your help in school.



*We love reading.*

