

Rotary

District 9800



2021

Rotary Primary School Reading Coaches



**Guideline and Templates
for Clubs on how to
establish Reading
Coaches with your local
Primary schools**

Vocational Service: Primary School Reading Coaches

Introduction

Vocational Service:

Through Vocational Service we:

1. *Serve Others by using our unique skills to address community needs*
2. *Empower others through training and skill development*
3. *Inspire Others to act with integrity by following Rotary's guiding principles.*

Establishing and/or participating in Reading Coaches enables Clubs to meet the second aspect of Vocational Service - **Empowering others through training and skill development.**

The following suggested guidelines on how to establish **Reading Coaches** is based on the successful program run by Rotary Brighton North.

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1. Summary

- Background**
- Brighton North Rotarians commenced the reading coaches' program at Brighton Primary School in 2012.
 - The program targets students identified by the school literacy coordinator as needing extra help with reading, particularly reading aloud.
 - The program may include students who are dyslexic, suffer from ADHD or those with English as a second language.
 - It is a simple project which requires no budget, just volunteer time and a willingness to assist young people with reading skills.
 - Brighton North currently has a team of 12 reading coaches.
 - Running the program over several consecutive years has enabled the development of a long term coach-student relationship with students across all primary grade levels.
 - A recent addition to the program is the sponsorship of a story dog who also listens to students read. Many students open up to these canine companions and look forward to pats and cuddles as part of their session.
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- Objectives**
- This program assists students to:
 - read aloud which is an important skill for students of all levels to master. (Educators often remark that children who enjoy reading become successful overall students).
 - have conversations about the deeper meaning behind stories which teaches the students analytical thinking – a skill that will be required as they progress through school and into adulthood.
 - see reading as a lifelong joy (reading and discussing books with Rotary coaches demonstrates that one is never too old to enjoy reading).
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General Approach

Rotary

- *Invite local schools to participate in the Reading Coach program to be run by Rotary in conjunction with the school literacy coordinator (or similar person).*
- *Once on board, the school will nominate a contact staff person to liaise with Rotary. All correspondence, after that, should go to the nominated contact.*
- *The Rotary Club looks after the selection and training of reading coaches which may include Rotary members and their family or friends who are willing to participate in the program.*
- *All Rotary nominated coaches must have a current working with children permit.*

- *Times for the coaching sessions need to be agreed with the school.*
- *At the end of each school year, Clubs can invite students, parents and the school contact person to visit the Club and provide an opportunity for the students to read a short thank you note to the coaches as well as telling them about their experience and what they learned during the coaching sessions. This gesture not only provides an opportunity to thank and acknowledge the volunteers, it is also an opportunity for the students to practice public speaking.*
- *Be a role model for students on the important role reading plays in life long learning.*
- *Clubs could purchase books or donate funds to buy books for the school library.*

School

- *Selects participating students, liaises with students and ensures reading coaches and students are matched appropriately.*
- *Chooses the books to be used in the coaching sessions.*
- *Ensure the students are on time for their reading sessions.*

Coaching Sessions

- *The coaching sessions are generally 1 hour per week/fortnight per Rotarian depending on the agreement with the school.*
- *All coaching session should be carried out in a public area – e.g. playground.*
- *Rotary coaches may share coaching time with the students over alternative weeks – if agreed with the school.*



Key Success factors

- Commitment of school Principals and nominated school contact person to the program.
 - Good open communication between Rotary and the participating schools at all times.
 - Respecting confidentiality of student and school contact details and other sensitive information provided by the schools.
 - The school promotes the reading coaches' program in relevant publications e.g. in their school newsletter.
 - Reading coaches are acknowledged at the school's volunteer appreciation morning tea or other relevant event.
 - The Rotary club website promotes and/or features an article and photos of reading coaches in action (but not faces of children).
 - Observed improved reading level of participating students.
 - Positive feedback from students and parents.
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