



Volunteer Opportunities

What is Reading to Kids?

Reading to Kids is a grassroots organization dedicated to inspiring underserved children with a love of reading. On the second Saturday of each month, *Reading to Kids* holds reading clubs at eight area elementary schools. We combine reading aloud with games, craft projects, and social interaction. By helping children associate reading with pleasure, *Reading to Kids* seeks to promote improved reading and learning skills. While the children are in the classroom with the volunteers, teachers at the schools hold workshops for the parents on a variety of topics including how they can encourage their children to read at home. After each reading club, *Reading to Kids* donates the books that were read aloud to the school libraries and gives one book directly to each attending child and parent. *Reading to Kids* also gives books to participating teachers for their classroom library.

The children who attend our clubs are at a significant risk for academic failure. They are primarily English language learners. Most have substantial room for improvement on their reading test-scores, and virtually all are from low-income families. According to teachers at our schools, the majority of students read at one to two grades below the age-appropriate level. Children emerge from our program with more enthusiasm for reading, books for their home library, stronger school libraries, personal relationships with volunteers, and improved attitudes towards reading in English.

Volunteer to Read to Kids:

Volunteer to read to kids at our reading clubs, held on the second Saturday of each month at downtown Los Angeles elementary schools. The reading clubs run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pairs of volunteer readers read aloud to small groups of students from the elementary school (typically between 4 and 6 children per group) in a fun environment and lead a craft or activity related to the book. Teachers at the elementary school provide training and guidance throughout the morning. Volunteers sign up online on a month to month basis and there is no long term commitment. To sign up, visit www.readingtokids.org. For questions, or to sign up as a group, contact info@readingtokids.org.

Volunteer as Parent Trainers:

Reading to Kids partners with the elementary schools to provide workshops for parents from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Although staff at the elementary schools provide excellent training on encouraging reading at home and other educational topics, we are always looking for guest presenters to speak to parents about a variety of topics and community resources, including Health, Financial Literacy, Gang Prevention, Academic Resources, Family Resources in LA, and more. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact info@readingtokids.org.

Other Volunteer Opportunities:

Reading to Kids welcomes community members to share their expertise with the organization through our volunteer Taskforce. Those who have volunteered at two or more reading clubs and want to be involved in the planning, administration, and/or execution of some aspect of the organization are encouraged to join our Taskforce. The Taskforce is comprised of ten committees: Curriculum, Fundraising, Marketing, Operations, School Relations, Special Events, Strategic Planning, Training, Volunteer Relations, and Website. For more information or to sign up, contact info@readingtokids.org.