



student2student Buddy Parent/Caregiver

Information Sheet

What is the *student2student* reading program?

The Smith Family's *student2student* program matches an older student (your child) with a younger student (the Reader) to improve their reading confidence.

Your child becomes a Buddy (volunteer peer mentor) reading for 18 weeks with their younger Reader, 2-3 times per week for a minimum of 20 minutes each time.

What equipment does my child need to become a reading Buddy?

There are two ways your child can participate in the program and will be required to provide their own device.

1. **Online Model** – a computer, laptop or tablet logged into the Chatty Kids website where they will read from various electronic books.
2. **Phone Model** – using a landline or a mobile phone and books sent from The Smith Family.
Please note that your number will be shared with the Reader family and vice versa to participate in this model.

How do I help my child become the best reading Buddy?

- Assist your child with setting up their first reading session by contacting the Reader Parent/Caregiver via call or text to introduce yourself and your child as their Buddy and confirm reading times going forward.
- Keep The Smith Family updated when we call to check in on how the program is going for your child.
- Encourage your child to complete the full 18-week program and participate fully during each session.
- Help your child prepare for their reading sessions, making sure they are in a quiet, comfortable space.
- Help your child understand that their Reader's family could be facing several challenges due to disadvantages and may have a very different home life to them. Your support to help your child to be understanding, patient, persistent and flexible if necessary is important.
- Help us to promote 'unconditional positive regard' where the Buddy provides a stable and encouraging reading experience even if their Reader seems less than enthusiastic at times.
- Contact your Reader's parent/Caregiver if you need to change the session time, giving as much notice as possible.
- Contact The Smith Family Program Specialist with any questions or concerns (details below).

Child Protection & Privacy

The Smith Family takes seriously our responsibility to always provide safe environments for the children and youngpeople participating in our programs. To ensure your child is kept safe as a Buddy:

- If your child is using their own phone, we request that they block their number when they call the Reader.
- If your child hears or is told something that makes them feel worried or uncomfortable, they need to tell you and then their School Facilitator or The Smith Family – Program Specialist as soon as possible.
- It is important that you or another adult are in the room when the sessions are taking place.
- Your child and their Reader only share their first name.
- Your child can share their interests and hobbies with their Reader.
- Your child cannot share their last name, the school they go to or where they live.
- Your child cannot meet their Reader in person.
- Your child cannot contact their Reader once the program finishes.
- Parents of Buddies must not communicate with the Reader directly.

What if there is a problem?

- If there are any issues, call, or text your Program Specialist or your child's School Facilitator. Details will be provided separately.