



Buddy Reading with Care Leavers Project

Developed exclusively by Read On - Write Away! this award-winning project will be of particular interest to those involved in supporting care-leavers, young people coming up to leaving care, young people 'out of school' and other young people/young adults disaffected or disengaged from learning. The Buddy Reading Project works at building the self-esteem of young people aged between 15 and 25 who are often from chaotic and unhappy backgrounds. It is designed to empower each one to take a second chance in education by becoming trained "buddy" in a reading partnership with a younger child.

In Buddy Reading, young people and young adults are given opportunities to:

- Train in shared reading skills
- Work as a volunteer in supervised placements usually but not always in school
- Partner children or young people who have reading deficits
- Work for between 8 and 12 weeks for an hour a week
- Work with 2 or 3 partners for up to 20 minutes each session
- Share in a celebration with their Buddy partners at the end of the project.

The Buddy Reading Project:

- **Takes** best practice in supporting young adults after care and puts this with innovative practice in literacy and education
- **Brings** together organisations working with young people who have left care and those working to improve literacy skills of children, young adults and disaffected young people
- **Shows** that when young adults and young children work together both gain in confidence and literacy skills
- **Recognises** that poor literacy seriously disadvantages young people and takes account of the Government's drive to improve the life chances of care leavers and disaffected young people
- **Improves** literacy and associated skills of young adults and children in partner schools
- **Draws** on experience and qualities of care leavers, recognising and acknowledging their considerable survival skills
- **Recognises** the importance of working together across organisational cultures to the benefit of children and young adults with poor literacy.

The Buddy Reading Project - Information, Training and Accreditation Pack is now available for purchase. The pack not only provides a comprehensive guide to setting up and running a Buddy Reading Project but also includes the Buddy Reading Project File/Folder, the Accreditation Pack, the Buddy Reading Project "2 Years On" - Report.

Project Case Study:

"This project has meant we can go to the young adults and say - 'You've got something to offer.' They've often come out of education with nothing. This project has made them feel very valued."

Project Worker

Further Details ...

For more information on the Read On - Write Away! Buddy Reading with Care Leavers contact:

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