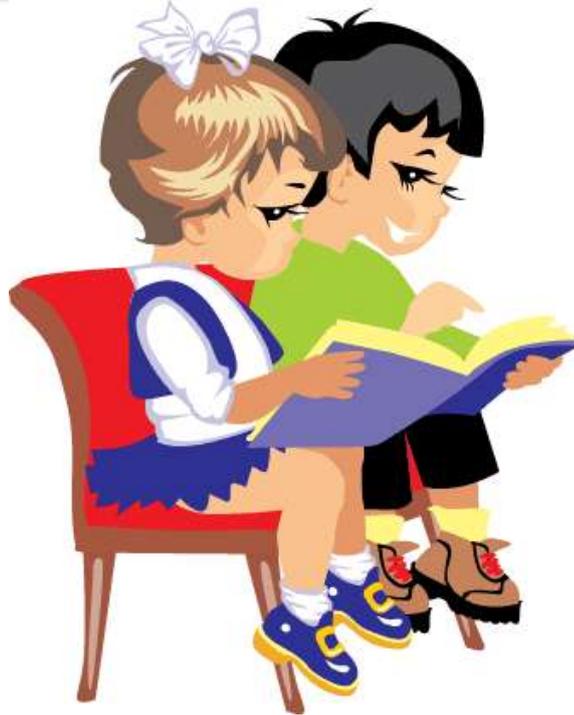


STUDY BUDDY



**A useful guide to setting up a STUDY
BUDDY system in your school and how
the Burt Reading Scheme can underpin
the scheme**

Burt /
Books

BURT BOOKS STUDY BUDDY

The STUDY BUDDY system is an acknowledged, successful method of an older or more capable student mentoring and assisting a younger or weaker student. It is used successfully at all levels of education and is most successfully used in universities around the world.

Many schools in Australia, the USA and UK have adopted the STUDY BUDDY system. It allows for older, more capable students to be trained to help younger students. This is beneficial to both students. The younger student gains new skills and the older student learns important life skills that will be useful in their adult life.

The BURT READING SCHEME lends itself to the STUDY BUDDY way of working as it will take a minimum amount of training to set up. The scheme has “TUTOR” notes on almost every page and these will guide the “buddy” step by step in tutoring their younger study buddy.

The BURT READING SCHEME has been trialled using the STUDY BUDDY system in a primary school where Year 6 pupils who were proficient readers were paired with children in Years 3 – 5. A teacher supervised the 15 minutes during lunch when the STUDY BUDDY scheme was held. In this way, one teacher was able to “tutor” 16 pupils successfully.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The older buddy gains self-confidence, reading skills, academic growth and a new desire to read. Why? Because they thrive on having someone look up to them, and they're able to read easy books that boost their own confidence. Very often the older buddy enjoys the easy level of reading just as much as the younger buddy.

Some hints for setting up a scheme.

1. Don't hesitate to put an older fairly weak reader with a very young child. Check that the older child can read the words in the book or relevant part of the BURT READING SCHEME. If they can read these easily but not up to their relevant age level in reading, being a buddy to a younger very much weaker reader might be just the confidence booster that they need. Besides this, relearning the foundation steps of phonics might be just what the older buddy needs to boost his/her own level of reading.
2. Allow time for the relationship between the older and younger buddy to develop. Start by allowing the older buddy to make suggestions as to how he/she might do this. eg play a session of basket ball together or have a session on an x-box competing on some or other game.
3. Allow the older buddy to peruse the material that he/she will be tutoring and become acquainted with it. Ask the older buddy to give you suggestions as to how he/she might want to develop their time with their younger buddy.
4. Spend some time explaining to the older buddy how to make the best progress during the 10-15 minutes of a session.
5. The success of the study buddy system rests in the relationship that develops between the older and younger buddy. The older buddy should feel some sense of responsibility for the outcome of each session and the tutor should allow them the freedom to develop the relationship and tutoring sessions without overt supervision. The buddies should spend the last minute of the session jointly filling in a session assessment sheet to track what was done in the session. Burt Books is devising a sheet in consultation with a number of schools successfully using the buddy system and this will appear online as soon as it is ready and has been tested. We are endeavoring to create a tick box

system to make the process very simple for the study buddies.

6. Allow the buddies to choose their own area to do the sessions in as far as possible but explain to them that this is within reason as you, the supervisor, need to be available for assistance if required.
7. Give lots of praise to both buddies but specially the older buddy for giving up his/her time for tutoring.

To read a comprehensive booklet on setting up a study buddy (READING BUDDY) system in your school, you may find the booklet entitled "READING BUDDIES" by Classroom Connections in Toronto, Canada, very useful. See the resource next to this one!