

NET

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Enjoying Books with Reading Buddies



Reading Buddies - Just What We Wanted



Reading Buddies is an extracurricular activity that pairs different grade-level students for face-to-face book sharing and reading comprehension time in our library. We aim to provide our P1 students with more opportunities to read some fun English library books. Unfortunately, we have not been able to meet our P1 students face-to-face that often this year because of the pandemic.



How can we benefit from the Reading Buddies Programme if we cannot meet and share books? What can we do – either great or small – to benefit most of our students today? How about we videotape our P5 and P6 students reading books and then broadcast those videos to our homebound P1 students? That sounds like a workable solution. This is how we made it happen.

First, we got permission from parents for our volunteers to come to our school for a couple of hours to read books in front of our video camera. Two English teachers and a cameraman were on hand to help each student prepare for their video recordings. During rehearsals, teachers monitored and coached buddies to speak

more clearly and to perfect their pronunciation, intonation, word stress, and reading pace. We observed that the buddies gradually became more confident and competent each time they read their stories to the camera. Once they rehearsed and performed several times, you could see them loosening up and enjoying the process. They got into their zone. What's more, it felt good to know that they did something well for their fellow students. This invaluable learning experience was just what we wanted to offer to our students.

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