



2026 Reading Buddies Program for English Language Learners Volunteer Application Form

Dear Reading Buddy for ELLs Volunteer Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Reading Buddies for English Language Learners (ELLs) Program. In this package you will find the documents necessary to complete your application. If selected, you will be contacted for a brief interview.

Research shows that children often experience summer reading lag during the summer school break. Children who are learning English as an additional language may have fewer opportunities to engage with English reading and speaking during this time. This program is intended to give young readers (ages 6-13), the extra practice and encouragement they need. A mix of fun games and one-on-one reading with a volunteer make the experience enjoyable! Buddies and volunteers are also invited to attend two social events in the summer.

- Reading Buddies Application Form (attached)
 - Both sides of this form must be completed in full.
- One Reference Form (attached)
 - **Your reference must complete this form and return it to you in a signed, sealed envelope. Individuals who complete these forms must not be related to you.**
- Vulnerable Sector Check Application (for volunteers 18 years and older only)
 - During the interview, you will be asked to submit a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) form. Before starting your weekly meetings with your buddy, volunteers are required to submit the processed PVSC to Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library
- I can attend the Reading Buddies for ELLs Kick-Off Party on Tuesday, June 23, from 6:30-7:30 pm in Youth Services.**
- If selected as a Reading Buddy, I can attend a mandatory 2-session training session on Friday, June 26 from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm and 2:30 - 4:00 pm in the Library Auditorium. Lunch will be provided. Please indicate any dietary requirements here:**

All documents listed above must be submitted for the application to be considered by end of day on Friday, June 5. Late applications cannot be accepted. Volunteers must be at least in Grade 9 as of September 2026.

If you have any questions about the Reading Buddies Program or the application process, please contact the Youth Services Department. Happy reading! ☺

Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library
824 1st Avenue West | Owen Sound, ON | N4K 4K4
519-376-6623 ext. 4
ysinfo@library.osngupl.ca



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Please complete all sections of the form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Library Card Number: _____

Name of school currently attending (if applicable): _____

I am interested in working with more than one child this summer: Yes No

Occupation (if you are not a student): _____

Please check off the days and time when you will be available to participate in the program. The greater your availability, the more likely it is you will be matched.

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10-11				
11-12				
12-1				
1-2				
2-3				
3-4				
4-5				
5-6				
6-7				
7-8				

Your completed application must be returned to the Library no later than Friday, June 5, 2026.

Please list any dates you will be away during the summer:

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will only be used for candidate selection.



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1. Why are you volunteering to be a Reading Buddy for English Language Learners?

2. Outline any experience you have working with children, or participating in a Reading Program.

3. What qualities do you have that would make you a great Reading Buddy?

4. Other than English, what languages can you speak?

5. Have you worked with children or adults whose first language is not English before?

6. Describe an experience when you encountered a language barrier. How did you communicate? How did you feel during and after?

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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Dear Referee,

Please use this form to provide a written reference for _____ (volunteer's name) who has applied for the Reading Buddies for English Language Learners program at the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. This program pairs volunteers with a child in grades 1-8 who is learning English as an additional language. The pair meets once a week at the Library for 8 weeks to help the child practice reading and speaking in English. The Library screens all volunteers by asking for written references. Your responses are confidential.

Please complete this form, seal it in an envelope, sign across the flap of the sealed envelope, and return it to the applicant. Thank you for your assistance and taking the time to complete this form.

Referee: _____
Name (please print) Signature

Occupation: _____

Referee's Phone Number: _____ Today's Date: _____

Questions:

1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. What words would you use to describe this person?

3. Have you had the opportunity to see this person interact with children? If so, describe the experience.

4. Do you think this person will be suitable for the Reading Buddies for English Language Learners program? Why or why not?



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5. Does this person have any experience with learning languages other than English or French, or supporting someone whose first language is not English? (ex. A classmate or family member)

6. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the highest) please indicate how you feel the applicant scores on the following personal characteristics (circle the appropriate number for each characteristic):

Responsibility	1	2	3	4	5
Dependability	1	2	3	4	5
Work Ethic	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to Relate to Children	1	2	3	4	5
Patience	1	2	3	4	5

7. Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about this person?

The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library may contact you to confirm the information provided. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Library at 519-376-6623 ext. 4 or ysinfo@library.osngupl.ca