

Better Reading Support Partners

Help for pupils who find reading difficult

A trained Better Reading Support Partner helps schools to make a real difference for pupils who have fallen behind at reading

Better Reading Support Partners is a 'light touch' reading intervention for pupils in Years 1 to 10 who have fallen behind at reading. A specially trained Better Reading Support Partner delivers a short one-to-one support programme to help them to develop independent reading and comprehension skills so that they can make faster progress and catch up with their peers.

BRSP is a part of Edge Hill University's not-for-profit Reading Support programme, backed by the DfE. It has been developed by the University in liaison with Bradford local authority, updating the authority's earlier Better Reading Partnership to provide a balanced approach to developing phonic skills, comprehension and the enjoyment of reading.

How it works

A Better Reading Support Partner provides a 10-week programme of three 15-minute one-to-one support sessions per week for selected pupils. Pupils read three texts in every session.



The Partner uses simple and effective assessments to inform the selection of a carefully structured sequence of texts that are finely tuned to the pupil's skills and interests. The Partner provides a relaxed

environment that gives the pupil the time and space both to practise and apply their skills and to talk about their reading with an interested adult.

The Partner is supported by a BRSP Co-ordinator who manages the partnership in school and acts as the main link with the school's senior leadership team, class teachers and parents.

Who can become a Partner?

BRSP is designed for:

- a teaching assistant with successful experience of supporting children's reading
- a volunteer or parent who has a working knowledge of systematic phonics
- an experienced Better Reading Partner who wishes to refresh their knowledge and learn about BRSP's new approaches

How effective is it?

BRSP was trialled with 26 pupils in Years 1 to 7 by 14 schools in 2013. After only 17 sessions in 1.8 months, they made:

- an average **Reading Age gain of 11.2 months** over six times the expected rate of progress
- an average **Comprehension Age gain of 9.8 months** over five times the expected rate of progress

"Children have enjoyed the structure of the lesson and the different books. This has developed their sense of achievement."

"He has a greater desire to learn to read."

"Parents have really taken on board the BRSP programme."

"She is generally happier in class, and her behaviour is better."

"The structure is working really well. He is using phonics to decode longer unfamiliar words, where previously he would just have looked at the initial part of the word and guessed the rest."

Training and support

Schools can access a one-year initial training and support package from a BRSP Trainer who has been trained and accredited by Edge Hill University. It includes:

- a 2-day training course for Partners
 - delivering BRSP sessions
 - understanding the reading process
 - talking with pupils about their reading and learning
 - selecting suitable texts
 - school BRSP Co-ordinators attend the first half day and can opt to attend the full course
- detailed handbook guidance for the Partner and the Co-ordinator
- online guidance and downloadable resources
- access to the Reading Support online data system, providing detailed analyses of children's progress to help schools to evaluate and demonstrate the impact of BRSP
- telephone and e-mail support
- opportunities for Reading Support accreditation



Contact the Reading Support team at Edge Hill University to find out more or to be put in touch with your local provider.



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