

Leading To Reading

Locations:

The Leading To Reading Program takes place at the following Toronto Public Library branches:

- East** For information, phone **Cathy Thomson, 416-396-8601**
Agincourt, Albert Campbell, Cedarbrae, Dawes Road,
Highland Creek, Malvern, Morningside, Thorncliffe
- North** For information, phone **Syvia Cheung, 416-395-5990**
Downsview, Fairview, Flemingdon Park,
Humber Summit, Jane Sheppard, Northern District, Weston,
Woodview Park, York Woods
- South** For information, phone **Pat Biros, 416-393-7683**
Annette, Bloor/Gladstone, Davenport, Dufferin/St. Clair,
Gerrard/Ashdale, Pape/Danforth, Parkdale, Parliament,
Perth/Dupont, Sanderson, St. James Town, St. Clair/Silverthorn
- West** For information, contact **David Kondo, 416-394-5012 or**
dkondo@torontopubliclibrary.ca
Albion, Eatonville, Evelyn Gregory, Humberwood, Jane/Dundas,
Maria A. Shchuka, Mimico, New Toronto, Richview

Summary Statement:

Toronto Public Library encourages and fosters an interest in reading and life-long learning. Program volunteers are paired with elementary school students who have reading difficulties or need homework help. Program volunteers help children build confidence and motivation by providing a positive reading and learning experience, and by developing improved skills and habits, using the library as a resource.

Responsibilities:

- ◆ Meet the same student for one regularly scheduled hour per week at the library
- ◆ Encourage independent reading and learning by reading together and engaging in a variety of learning-related games and activities
- ◆ Assist their partner in selecting reading and study material
- ◆ Respect the child and provide positive encouragement
- ◆ Keep parent(s) and program staff informed on their partner's progress
- ◆ Familiarize their partner with the Library and assist the child in borrowing library materials weekly
- ◆ Keep weekly written notes regarding the session with their student
- ◆ Work in cooperation with other volunteers and library staff to run program sessions

Qualifications:

- ◆ Fluent and well-versed in written and spoken English
- ◆ Able to relate well to children and enjoys working one-to-one with a child
- ◆ Able to work well independently
- ◆ Communicates well with both children and adults
- ◆ Able to act as a mature reading and learning role model (grade 9 to seniors preferred)
- ◆ Teaching experience is not essential

Placements are subject to the return of a satisfactory Police Reference Check (Arranged and paid by the Toronto Public Library for Toronto residents).

Orientation and Training:

Training, provided by Library staff, covers:

- ◆ Basic reading theory
- ◆ Tutoring techniques
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Behaviour management
- ◆ Building relationships with the children
- ◆ Creating a positive attitude toward learning and reading
- ◆ Program structure and procedures

A separate on-site orientation, provided by Library staff, covers:

- ◆ Local program procedures
- ◆ Local library and program resources

Printed materials, outlining program procedures and homework assistance strategies, are also provided.

Time and Place:

Sessions take place in libraries, once per week, at a regularly scheduled, mutually suitable time. Sessions are an hour in length and are held throughout the year, in the afternoon, evening, or on Saturdays.

Commitment:

- ◆ Participation for at least 2 consecutive school terms is preferred
- ◆ A regularly scheduled time commitment of one hour per week is required
- ◆ Applications may be accepted at any time

Onsite Supervision:

Library staff provide assistance and on-site supervision during the program sessions. They are available for consultation at other times by appointment.

Privileges:

- ◆ Volunteers may make personal photocopies at the staff rate
- ◆ Overdue fines are waived for current volunteers with six months or more of active service
- ◆ Non-resident fees are waived for current volunteers with six months or more of active service