

Leading To Reading

Locations:

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

East of Yonge Street Agincourt, Albert Campbell, Cedarbrae, Dawes Road, Fairview, Flemingdon Park, Gerrard/Ashtdale, Highland Creek, Malvern, Morningside, Northern District, Pape/Danforth, Parliament, Pleasant View, St. James Town, Thorncliffe

West of Yonge Street Albion, Annette, Barbara Frum, Bloor/Gladstone, Davenport, Downsview, Dufferin/St. Clair, Eatonville, Evelyn Gregory, Humber Summit, Humberwood, Jane/Dundas, Jane Sheppard, Maria A. Shchuka, Mimico, Mount Dennis, New Toronto, Parkdale, Perth/Dupont, Richview, Sanderson, Weston, Woodview Park, York Woods

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. 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.

Volunteer Responsibilities:

- ◆ Respect the child and provide positive encouragement
- ◆ Meet the same child 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
- ◆ Familiarize the child with the Library and assist them in borrowing library materials weekly
- ◆ Assist the child in the selection of appropriate reading material
- ◆ Work in cooperation with other volunteers and library staff to run program sessions
- ◆ Keep weekly written notes regarding the session
- ◆ Keep parent/guardian and program staff informed on the child's progress

Volunteer Requirements:

- ◆ Speak and write English fluently
- ◆ Relate and communicate well with children
- ◆ Work independently
- ◆ Act as a mature role model for reading
- ◆ A regularly scheduled time commitment of one hour per week
- ◆ Participation for at least 2 consecutive school terms is preferred
- ◆ Police Reference Check (completed at your interview and paid for by the Toronto Public Library for Toronto residents.)

Time and Place:

Sessions take place in the library, 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, depending on the branch location.

Onsite Supervision:

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

Orientation and Training:

Training, provided by Library staff, covers:

- ◆ Basic reading theory
- ◆ Reading help techniques
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Building relationships with children
- ◆ Creating a positive attitude toward learning and reading
- ◆ Program structure, procedures and expectations
- ◆ Human Rights Code, Disability Awareness

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

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

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

For more information about Leading to Reading and/or becoming a volunteer, contact:

East of Yonge Street:

Rajnie Chauhan, Senior Library Assistant

Telephone: 416-396-3589

Email: LTReast@torontopubliclibrary.ca (for volunteer applications)

Lily Wong, Program Coordinator

Telephone: 416-396-8601

Email: lilywong@torontopubliclibrary.ca

West of Yonge Street:

Terry Ratchev, Senior Library Assistant

Telephone: 416-394-5015

Email: LTRwest@torontopubliclibrary.ca (for volunteer applications)

Guida da Silva, Program Coordinator

Telephone: 416-394-5012

Email: gdasilva@torontopubliclibrary.ca