



Volunteers Needed!

Read with elementary students online!

Did you know?

Foster children and kids living in poverty have lower rates of reading proficiency than their peers and are more likely to suffer the negative impacts of illiteracy such as homelessness, incarceration, and a continued cycle of poverty. Kids who are **not proficient in reading by 4th grade are 4x less likely to graduate high school** than their proficient peers.

Currently in AZ, only **19% of foster kids are proficient in reading, and only 27% of kids from low-income homes are proficient.** Foster kids in AZ have the lowest 4-year graduation rate and the second highest high school dropout rate of all demographic categories.

Our virtual reading program serves students in foster care and in low-income neighborhoods. We know that literacy is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty and negative life outcomes, and we need your help to serve the most vulnerable kids in our communities!



YOU CAN HELP!

"I'd recommend this for anyone who wants to help kids in their community. The program is highly effective at helping kids learn to read and also liking to read."

- Program Volunteer

MORE INFORMATION

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Volunteer FAQ

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

Azura Literacy's virtual reading program is an online reading program designed to help elementary students improve their reading skills and develop a love of reading through one-on-one virtual sessions with a reading mentor. The program serves children in foster care and from low-income neighborhoods.

HOW DO VOLUNTEERS HELP?

Volunteers use digital children's books shared through Zoom to guide students' independent reading and read to the students. Volunteers use methods learned in the training to support phonics skills, vocabulary, and comprehension based on the needs determined by students' pre-assessments.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Have or obtain a fingerprint clearance card
- Attend a training session
- ***Please note: 12 Books covers the \$65 DPS fingerprint application/card fee, but volunteers must pay the \$8.25 fingerprinting fee.**

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

- 1 hour total per week for at least 12 weeks, but preferably for all three yearly sessions (Fall, Spring, and Summer)
- The hour is split into two 30-min sessions on separate days
- Fall (Sept.-Dec.) & Spring (Jan.-May) sessions are Monday-Thursday between 3:30pm-6:30pm
- Summer (June-mid Aug.) sessions are Monday-Saturday between 10am-6:30pm

1 SIGN-UP

Use this link to sign up:
bit.ly/AzuraLiteracyMentors

2 VOLUNTEER APPROVAL

Apply for fingerprint clearance or send a copy of your current card.

3 TRAINING

Attend a training session (virtual or in-person).

4 START MENTORING!