

# READING BUDDIES

## The Effects of *Sound Partners* when Delivered through Cross-Age Peer Tutoring

The University of Texas at Austin and Vanderbilt University partnered with YMCA after-school programs in Texas and Tennessee to test the efficacy of a cross-age peer tutoring model using the Sound Partners reading intervention. This program aimed to reduce learning gaps for students with reading difficulties.

## What are Students Saying about Reading Buddies?

### Tutors

Student tutors reported “visible tutee academic growth” as a key impact of their tutoring. Tutors frequently spoke about their tutees positive behavior as a result of learning and applying a growth mindset. In turn, this has a positive impact on the tutors themselves!

*At first, she would like struggle with a word and I'd have to sound it out. But now she knows how to sound out words.”*

*– Taylor, 4th Grade*

*“My favorite part of reading buddies is that you love to see them learn, it just makes me super duper happy.”*

*– Anna, 3rd Grade*

*“When we first started, she was struggling... But now she's reading it smoothly instead of like, kind of like a robot.”*

*– Brooke, 5th Grade*

### Tutees

Student tutees were consistently excited to work with their student tutor. Tutees felt inspired to learn and happy to look up to an older student at their school. In their own words, “I like learning and listening to my buddy... the best part is learning what the words are!” Student tutors also mentioned that the prizes were a big hit with their tutees.



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## What are Parents Saying about Reading Buddies?



Parents are overwhelmingly pleased with their child's progress and experience in the Reading Buddies program. Parents noted improvement in test scores, reading fluency, and reading comprehension – not to mention boosts in confidence!

*"I've seen a huge jump in her this year – not only with her test scores, but also her confidence with being able to read."*

*– Jenn, 4th Grade Parent*

*"I think it's great. I think that very time I read with her, she shows improvement."*

*– Travis, 3rd Grade Parent*

*"I've seen her come home and talk about enjoying doing it... I see no drawbacks and would encourage any parent to do it!"*

*– Maria, 5th Grade Parent*

Additionally, parents shared their observations on their child's increased engagement in reading. They spoke about their children being interested in reading more at home, whether together or independently. Parents also mentioned how the program has been a huge help for their children who are learning English as a second language!



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