

Welcome to Doorstep Library

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Why does Doorstep Library exist?

We want to see a world where **all children are thriving** in homes where **books are celebrated** and a love of reading is embraced.

BUT.....

A background image showing two young children sitting on the floor, focused on reading books. The child on the left is a girl with dark hair, and the child on the right is a boy with light hair. They are both wearing casual clothing. The background is slightly blurred, showing a brick wall and some foliage.

One in four 11-year-olds leave Primary School unable to read well

It's very difficult to enter secondary school if you're not a confident reader and children in that position can find it very hard to ever catch up.

Unfortunately, educational inequality continues to be a growing problem, with four in every ten children living in households in poverty.

A young child with curly hair is shown from the chest up, holding an open book and looking down at it with a smile. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting. The entire image has a semi-transparent dark purple overlay.

Reading for pleasure is the strongest indicator of a child's future success in life

According to UNESCO, the biggest single indicator of whether a child is going to thrive at school and in work is whether they read for pleasure.

Young people who read outside of class are **13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.**

How is Doorstep Library different?

- We're directly in the home bringing the reading directly to them whether in person or virtually.
- We instil a love of reading for pleasure rather than focusing purely on attainment. It's not only to improve children's future life chances, but to ensure all children are enjoying reading as part of their childhood.
- We encourage the whole family to get involved in the session and provide additional support for parents as we build relationships with them over time.





Our Reading sessions



What happens in a Home Reading session?

You will:

- Meet with your volunteering partner and a Doorstep Library team leader at the local base to pick books and plan the sessions for that day
- Visit 5 families at home or on their doorstep
- Lend books: this helps children access new books and encourages families to read outside sessions
- Read for 20 minutes: it may sound short, but it's enough to make a difference
- Have fun! If children enjoy the reading, they will improve as well.
- Engage with parents and build relationships: continue to build trust week after week



Becoming a Reading Volunteer

Regular Volunteers (Home)

5 families

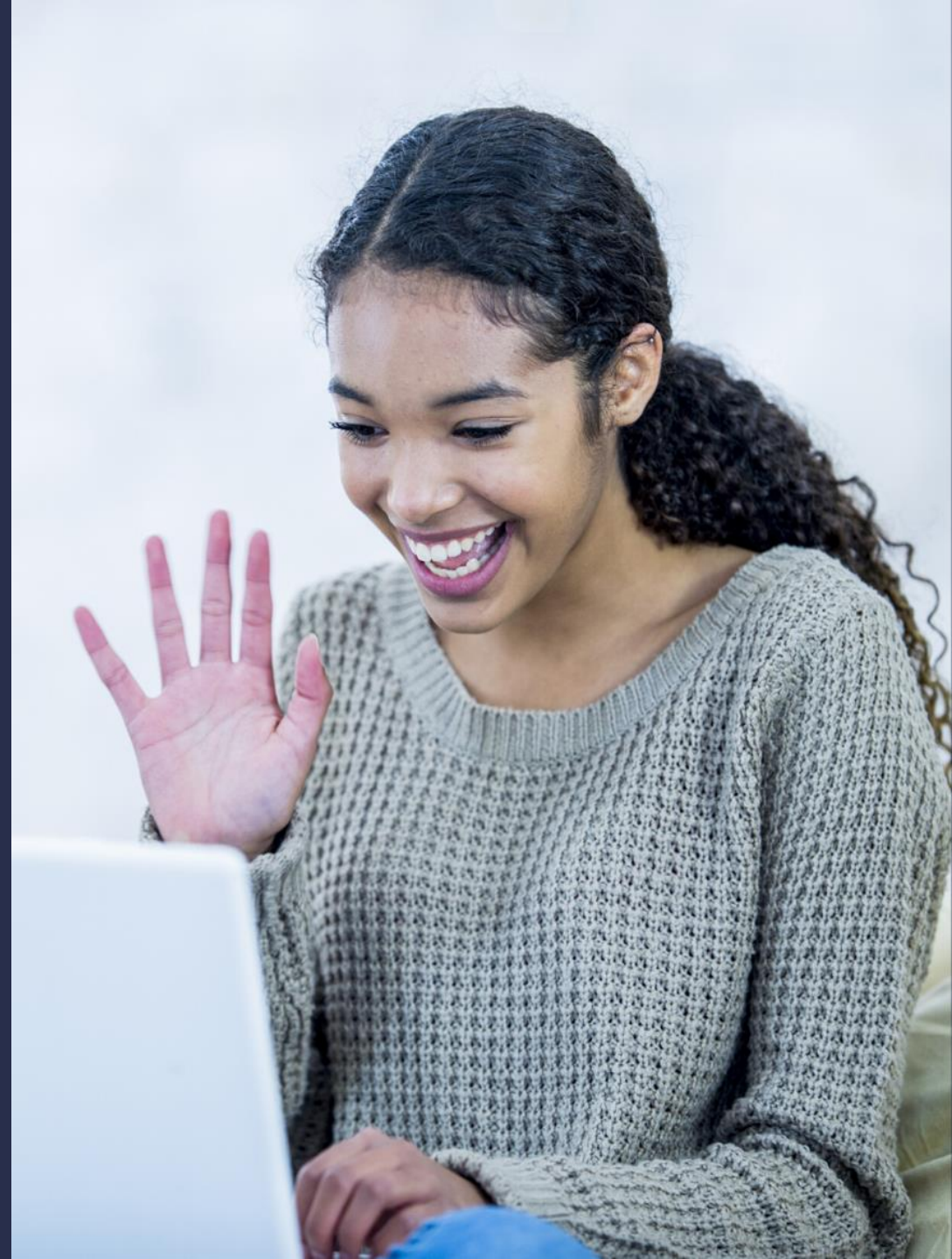
Same day and time every week (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday)

Same volunteer partner

2.5 hours a week **during school term time only**

Nine months commitment: benefits of the reading sessions really start increasing over time when children get used to the same volunteers, and you get to know your families.

80% of school term: we understand that you might be on holidays or feel unwell, so we expect regular volunteers to be able to attend 80% of the scheduled sessions





Stand-in volunteers

Volunteer when a regular reader can't attend a session. Being a stand in volunteer is a great opportunity to meet and work with different volunteers and families and provides you with more flexibility as you don't need to commit to weekly visits.

5 families

Choose the day (or days) when you can volunteer

Volunteer Coordinators will get in touch with you as and when opportunities arise to volunteer.

Stand-in volunteers should be able to do one reading session a month on average during the school year (you are always welcome to do more)

When are our sessions and what is the time commitment?

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
HOME READING 4.30 to 7.00pm	✓	✓	✓

You must be able to commit to the whole time slot. Unfortunately, volunteers are not able to start later than 4.30pm as we only offer reading sessions to families once children have finished school and before the family has dinner.

Where can you volunteer?



We currently work with families in four boroughs: Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Westminster and Camden.

We set up our reading projects on housing estates in under-resourced areas and welcome any family who would like to read with us. Having more volunteers on our team will help us to reach more families.

However, with our new Online Reading offer we hope to be able to expand our reach beyond our current boroughs.

For online sessions, you only need a device with an internet connection and a private place to have the sessions. We will be providing ideas for resources and e-books to use during your reading sessions



Volunteer benefits



Why volunteer with us?

“

- It's incredibly fun! You get to explore your inner child and share your passion for books and reading.
- You will be a part of the Doorstep Library community of families, volunteers and staff members.
- You can make a real difference to the lives of others.
- You give back to the community you live in or the community you visit every week.
- You build your confidence and improve your self-esteem.
- You develop skills and enhance your C.V.

”



Building relationships

“

In six months the children have grown up in so many ways. They are such a fabulous group of people. It's such an interesting experience and so much love comes back to me.

- Leonida

”

As a Reading Volunteer you can make a difference

Click on the link below to watch a video of some of the children we read with speaking about what they like about Doorstep Library:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLYzvmNJf_Q





How do you get involved?

Application process

**Application
form**

Interview

**DBS
check**

**Online
training**

**Trial
sessions**

**Full
volunteer**

- The email you have received contains a link to an application. You can choose only one of the roles on the application.
- After you've completed your application, our Volunteer Recruitment Officer will be in touch to arrange an online interview. The interview gives us the opportunity to find out more about you and gives you the opportunity to ask any further questions you may have.
- We will then send you instructions to complete your DBS. This is a criminal record check, and because we work with children, we do an enhanced checked check. You must have a permanent UK address so that we can process a DBS check for you. It is okay to join an online reading session from abroad if you are away temporarily.
- When filling in the application, you will be asked to provide names of two referees, and these will be contacted and asked to provide a reference.
- You will then do your training, which is a mixture of pre-recorded sessions to be done at your own time as well as a live interactive session on Zoom where you can ask questions and speak to our Projects team in person. The training includes an in-depth safeguarding section as well as sections on what books to choose, how to access the online sessions, how to engage with children and parents and everything else you need to know before you start your sessions.

Thank you!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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