



## Suggestions and Ideas from Other Reading Friends

**Create a Reading Friend tote bag.** Keep it stocked with all of your Reading Friend materials: blank paper, markers, pencils, extra books, dictionary, index cards, stickers, etc.

**Use the Comics section of the newspaper.** Have your student circle all of the words that have a given vowel sound.

**Bring props** for the story you plan to read, i.e. cowboy hat for reading a cowboy book.

**Purchase a reading workbook** for your student. Workbooks can be found at School-Aids, Wal-Mart, Dollar Tree and Barnes & Noble.

**Occasionally read a more advanced book** to your student. It is important for him/her to hear correct pronunciation and the more advanced words will help build vocabulary.

**Review words** that have given your student difficulties.

Have your student **make new words** by changing or adding a letter to the words he/she has learned.

**Keep a little notebook** or list of the books that your student completes; let him/her enter the title and author to note his/her reading progress.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Do I have to complete 20 visits by the end of the school year?

**Answer:** Yes! Our research indicates that students who are visited by their Reading Friend 20 or more times improve significantly in reading compared to students who were not matched.

**Question:** How many visits per month will I have to make to complete 20 visits by the end of the school year?

**Answer:** To complete 20 visits by the end of the year, Reading Friends will need to visit his/her student at least 2-3 times per month. However, VIPS encourages you to visit your student as often as once per week, if possible.

**Question:** May I give my student a gift as a reward?

**Answer:** Yes, but be careful not to give the impression that this is the reason for your visits. Stickers, pencils, pens, notepads and books are acceptable rewards. Candy and toys do not make good gifts because of the disruption they cause in the classroom. Stress to your student to put the item in his/her pocket or book bag before returning to the classroom.

**Question:** What to do if I forget to sign the log book?

**Answer:** Sign in and sign out in the volunteer log book when you visit again, taking care to include the previous visit and the current visit.

**Question:** What do I do if my student transfers to another school or is continually absent?

**Answer:** Ask the teacher to match you with another student. Then, inform the VIPS *Everybody Reads*® Coordinator of your new student. The phone number is 226-4702.

**Question:** I am doing ok with my Reading Friend, but I would like to hear new ideas from other Reading Friends. How do I learn about strategies that work for other Reading Friends?

**Answer:** Attend the Reading Friends Connect meetings to find out what other Reading Friends are doing. The *Everybody Reads*® Coordinator will inform you of the dates and times of the Connect Meetings.