

CASE STUDY

NHS staff help local children to discover a love for reading



A little history

Yorkshire and Humber Commissioning support (YHCS) believe that every child has the right to read, yet the fact is that not every child is given the opportunity. That is why the CSU, as part of its commitment to be a socially responsible business, has signed up to Business in the Community's award winning Right to Read scheme that aims to improve the literacy levels of primary school children in our localities.

The Right to Read scheme is a programme which provides reading partners from local businesses to support children's reading and literacy skills. On average, the intervention of a Right to Read partner helps improve a child's reading age by six months in just 12 weeks.



Helping to read

This project happened as a result of the library project where YHCS staff recoded, categorised the pupil's books and had the opportunity to listen to the pupils read at Bankfoot Primary School. Each of the volunteers involved reported how much they enjoyed this, the sense of achievement they felt and what benefits this could bring the children.

12 volunteers spent a total of 138 hours over a 12-week period listening to and helping the pupils to read. Over 95% of children at Bankfoot Primary School don't speak English as their first language, and already CSU staff noticed an improvement with their reading skills. YHCS is proud to have the opportunity to support the Right to Read scheme and the good work helping does for these young children.

The results

Juliet Wright, Headteacher of Bankfoot Primary School was delighted with the library work of the volunteers:

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I know the children enjoy reading to and with the volunteers on a weekly basis.

This helps us to target additional support to children who might lack confidence, might need some help to catch up and those who are not making the progress they should. This is a great opportunity for us to receive support to ensure every child at Bankfoot not only can read well, but can also experience the pleasure again and again of getting lost in a good book.

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