The Shadow Project

Reading Mentors



Increase Student Engagement and Belonging

Reading Mentors supports students reading below grade level in developing critical literacy skills. Students are paired with trained volunteer mentors and receive access to Learning Ally, an assistive reading technology specifically designed to help neurodivergent learners advance their reading. The result: students who can engage in grade-level work, read enthusiastically, and explore their world through reading.

Mentored Student Outcomes

- 75% of students like reading more since joining the program.
- 61% now feel "very confident" reading on their own.
- Two-thirds build strong independent reading habits.
- More than half improve their reading test scores by more than 1 grade level.

"I've seen a transformation from reluctant readers who thought they 'couldn't read' to kids who now look forward to their reading times."

- Autumn, Reading Mentor

The Shadow Project aims to put the right tools into the hands of students, so they can feel empowered and excited to learn. Our powerful combination of technology and positive adult encouragement helps students reading below grade level to access content that matches their interests and comprehension, inspiring new levels of self-confidence and curiosity. **Reading Mentors helps readers become leaders in their own educational journey.**

Reading Mentors



"The program provides a glue for them to stay in their school, to be interested and to have an outlet to share good and bad experiences in a safe place."

- Blair, Reading Mentor

Shadow Project Provides:

- Mentoring for up to 20 students grades 3-8, with weekly 15-minute sessions.
- Access to 75,000-title Learning Ally audio-visual library for all students reading below grade level.
- Training and implementation sessions for lead teachers and building administrators.
- School-wide educator training to guide integration of assistive technology into your literacy curriculum for all students.
- Family Outreach and distribution of Reading Kits at school events.
- Program evaluation to show accountability and demonstrate impact.

School Partners Provide:

- A consistent lead contact to identify students and create schedules.
- Space for students and mentors to meet during the school day.
- Staff time for program implementation and Learning Ally trainings.
- Cost-share realistic for your budget.
- Student achievement data.
- Staff completion of evaluation surveys.



Partner with Us

Visit shadow-project.org, call 503-208-4614, or email wendy@shadow-project.org to learn more about our programs.

Goal Setting • Reading Mentors • SuperSensory Spaces

Since 2003, The Shadow Project has partnered with hundreds of schools and community organizations in Oregon and SW Washington to close the opportunity gap for K–8 students with learning challenges—supporting more than 26,000 students through transformative, neuroinclusive education.

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CHANGING LIVES FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING CHALLENGES