

Read to a Dog

A Proven Program That Builds Readers, Empathy, and School Pride

Real Kids.
Real Stories.
Brighter Futures. ♥



KIND
KIDS
BRIGHTER
PUPS ♥

Why Read to a Dog?

Because your student's voice has the power to save dogs' lives.

Most shelter dogs are scared, lonely, and overlooked. Many are passed over for adoption... not because they're bad dogs, but because they seem too aggressive or afraid to trust again.

But something amazing happens when they hear a child's voice:

They settle. They listen. They calm down.

Research shows that when dogs hear gentle, childlike voices... especially through reading... they become **friendlier, less fearful, and dramatically more adoptable.**

One shelter reduced euthanasia for anxiety-related behavior from **69% to less than 1%**, just by playing recordings of children reading aloud.

Your student's voice helps save lives. And as they help these animals feel safe, they grow as **readers**, build confidence, and discover what it means to **make a real difference.**

Learn **2** Read
Read **2** Learn

Stronger Readers.
Happier Communities. ♥

Why 20 Minutes Matters

And What the Research Says



According to decades of research (Nagy & Herman, 1987; Anderson et al., 1988), students who read for just 20 minutes a day are exposed to **over 1.8 million words per year** and tend to score in the **90th percentile** on standardized tests.

Minutes of Reading per Day	Words Read per Year	Percentile Rank
20 minutes	1.8 million+ words	90th percentile
5 minutes	~282,000 words	50th percentile
1 minute	~8,000 words	

But for many children, especially reluctant readers, building that habit is hard.

Read to a Dog gives them purpose.



When students read to help calm shelter dogs, they read longer, more often, and with more joy.

Why Empathy Matters

And What the Research Says



Empathy today.
A kinder tomorrow.

Reading to a dog isn't just good for literacy... it's a **catalyst for empathy**.

- ✓ A 2014 study (Early Childhood Education Journal) found that children in reading-to-dog programs showed significantly higher empathy scores than those who didn't (Kirnan, Siminerio, & Wong).
- ✓ A 2020 University of British Columbia study found that purpose-based reading tasks **increase motivation, stamina, and emotional regulation**.
- ✓ CASEL confirms that students who develop empathy show **better grades, stronger relationships, and long-term life success**.

Read to a Dog helps children learn to care, focus, and serve, while building their identity as confident, compassionate readers.

How It Works

- 1 Students dial a **toll-free number** after school
- 2 They read a book aloud for approximately 20 minutes
- 3 Their voice is recorded, **cleaned up**, and streamed in shelters to calm dogs
- 4 Reading minutes are automatically tracked and credited to their school



Why Schools Should Use It

1



It's Free, Scalable, and Data-Backed

- No cost to participate
- Easily implemented in classrooms or homes
- Research-supported literacy developments through oral language exposure

2



Access Without Internet or Devices

- Accessible from landlines, flip phones, or any basic device – leveling the playing field for students without home tech access.
- No parental tech support required

3



Fluency Through Repetition and Modeled Reading

- Improves phrasing, decoding, and vocabulary retention
- Encourages students to read books after hearing them aloud
- Particularly effective for grades K-2 and English language learners, as supported by Rasinski's research on repeated reading (2012).

4



Designed for Privacy, Independence, and Trust

- Designed to protect student privacy
- Teachers assign 6-digit codes, no student names or identifiers are collected
- Students listen independently and anonymously

5



Supports Mandates and Strategic Literacy Goals

- Supports daily 20-minute reading routines.
- Supports Title I, ESSER, and early intervention literacy efforts



A calmer dog.
A more confident reader.
A brighter tomorrow.



Learn 2 Read
Read 2 Learn

Results That Speak for Themselves



Proven fluency gains and motivation

In just 10 weeks, students in dog-assisted reading programs increased fluency by 12%... with zero added tutoring.

– UC Davis, 2010



Social-emotional growth through animal empathy

Students in animal-assisted reading programs showed measurable increases in perspective-taking, patience, and emotional regulation.

– Kirnan, Siminerio, & Wong (2016), Early Childhood Education Journal



Voluntary, self-driven reading practice

Participants in reading-to-dog programs showed increased reading frequency at home and a greater desire to read without prompting.

– Kirnan et al., 2016; UBC Study, 2020



No tech required – just a phone



Public recognition for literacy leadership

Top schools can link directly to their donation pages, boosting visibility among education-minded donors.

“Even my kindergarteners can use it on their own. Now they want to hear their book and try to read it, too.”

“I wish we could do this during the school day! This is amazing... the kids feel independent, motivated, and proud of their progress.”

Explore the Ecosystem



Learn2ReadRead2Learn.com

Explore the complete Valedictorian Literacy Ecosystem, implementation resources, and partnership opportunities.

*Real Kids.
Brighter
Futures.*



Every child deserves the opportunity to become a confident reader. Together, we can help create stronger foundations through literacy.

**Learn2Read
Read2Learn**