

Beanstalk's service is simple yet highly effective. We recruit, train and support volunteers to provide consistent, one-to-one literacy support to primary school children who need our help. Our trained reading helpers give them the one-to-one support they need to improve their reading ability and confidence.

We work in partnership with schools across London, Somerset, Norfolk, Kent and Medway, the Midlands, the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, and the North East of England.

The need for Beanstalk:



Sadly far too many children are leaving primary schools without the reading skills and confidence to engage with their school work. In 2015-16 over 200,000 children left primary school without reaching the expected level of reading, this can have severe consequences on their future life chances.

The statistics of literacy in the UK are shocking and show the scale of the challenge we all face:

- 34% of children left primary school last year unable to read to the expected level.
- 70% of pupils permanently excluded from school have difficulties with basic literacy.
- 25% of young offenders have reading skills below that of the average 7 year old.

Our challenge is to ensure that every child leaves school with the skills and confidence to reach their true potential.



How you can help:

You can help ensure that children leave primary school with the skills and confidence to reach for the stars by becoming a Beanstalk trained reading helper.

After just three terms worth of support by a Beanstalk trained reading helper, a child's learning is accelerated:

- 75% of KS1 children previously classed as 'below' the recommended reading level have improved.

- 67% Lower KS2 children previously classed as 'below' the recommended reading level have improved.
- 57% of Upper KS2 children previously classed as 'below' the recommended reading level have improved.

By volunteering as a Beanstalk reading helper you'll pass on your skills and experience and have fun – 98% of our volunteers would recommend it to a friend.

We're there for our volunteers every step of the journey:

- We provide professional and comprehensive training.
- You'll have a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator to provide you with support.
- You'll be placed in a school within five mile of your home or work.
- We offer further training opportunities in subjects such as dyslexia.
- We organise regular events for our reading helpers so you can meet new friends and share experiences.



Time requirement:

As a Beanstalk trained reading helper you will need to commit to volunteering for a full school year, supporting three children on a one-to-one basis. You'll need to commit to volunteering two hours per week in your local school, twice a week.

What the next steps are:

To become a Beanstalk trained reading helper, or to simply find out more, please visit <https://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/Pages/Category/become-a-reading-helper>