

Reading Together

2020 COVID RESPONSE REPORT



SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC LIBRARY

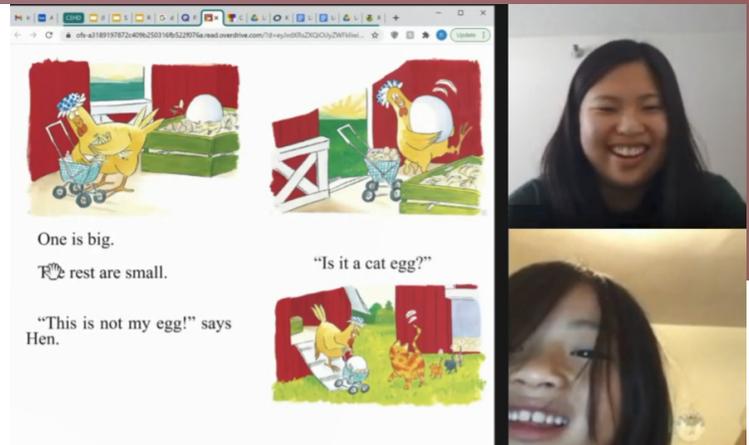
Mission: The mission of the Reading Together program is to foster the joy of reading and boost reading skills through mentorship and creative play.

PIVOT TO ONLINE

Reading Together was one of the first of mentor programs in the metro area to successfully pivot online, which it did in early May, using Google Meet.

Library staff partnered with Literacy Minnesota and Sprockets to present webinars to colleagues about how it made the shift.

Staff and Lead Mentors integrated the Library's existing digital resources and also created digital worksheets and tools to support student-mentor pairs.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS (2020 PROGRAM DATA)

70

Student/mentor pairs meeting weekly

5

Work-study students serving as Lead Mentors

100%

of reading mentors felt their students' attitude toward reading improved this year

100%

of parents agreed the program improved their child's attitude toward reading

SURVEY FEEDBACK

STUDENTS:

"My favorite memory was learning new words."

"I like when we were reading together the books it was amazing."

PARENTS:

"Thank you for giving them the opportunity to be a part of reading together during the pandemic as were few activities [SIC] for them to do. Reading with someone helped to motivate them and made reading funner."

"It meant valuable because they loved to facetime with the teacher."

READING MENTORS:

"I worked with two sisters and when they both shared with me what the other was reading, I was excited, one because they were reading and because they were accountable to each other."

"I loved that my reading buddy and I were able to keep some of our same traditions even in a virtual world. In our second or third virtual session, she paused and said, 'I think it's time for a dance break,' which is something we often did when she was starting to get tired or was getting frustrated with a book we were reading at the library."

"It was nice to continue volunteering. I was also happy to read with my mentee who said they didn't have many books at home."

"A favorite moment was whenever I explained the meaning of a word to the student (ELL) and his interest in the story grew."



READINGTOGETHER

SPPL.ORG/READING-TOGETHER