



# EDUCATION CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2019

## OUR MISSION

...every child reading by the end of 3rd grade.

## OUR CORE VALUES

**HUMILITY...**

Not needing to know.

**CONSISTENCY...**

Showing up.

**SIMPLICITY...**

Believing our model makes a difference

## BE INSPIRED

*Sometimes, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." - Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll*

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M APPROVED TO START READING?

In order to be approved to start reading you will have to complete the following...

- 1) Register on App-Garden/Volunteer Tracker
- 2) Complete your district's background check
- 3) Complete the Volunteer Commitment Pledge
- 4) Complete Literacy Partner Training

Once each of the tasks has been completed your status in App-Garden/Volunteer Tracker will be changed from Pending Renewal to Approved.

Your Literacy Partner Coordinator will then contact you regarding details of when you will start volunteering and campus orientation information. Please verify that your volunteer days/times are correct in App-Garden/Volunteer Tracker. This is important matching information for your Literacy Partner Coordinator. You can make edits to your registration once you are "Approved" If you are still in "Pending" status please email [info@education-connection.org](mailto:info@education-connection.org).

## TIPS FOR THE FIRST MEETING WITH STUDENTS

- If you can, connect with the Teacher via email to introduce yourself. Your Teacher's email will be shared with you once you are matched with students.
- If you have concerns about the location/space where you will be reading with your students (too far away, need a chair, etc.) voice them in the beginning, to your Literacy Partner Coordinator, to maximize the experience.
- Think about how you want to induce yourself to the student. For example, Ms. Hagen or Ms. Amy
- Start by connecting with your students. Build trust.
- Don't feel pressure to have to read during the first meeting. You can spend the time getting to know one another.
- Share some things about yourself let the students get to know you too.
- Remember your Resource Packet has helpful activities for you to utilize.



# 1 VOLUNTEER + 2 KIDS +30 MINUTES = CHANGING THE WORLD!

...EVERY CHILD READING BY 3RD GRADE

## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS TIP #1

A smile goes a long way. If you look happy to be there it will set the tone and atmosphere for your time together.

## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS TIP #2

You don't have to know everything. If they ask you something and you don't know, tell them you don't know and you'll find the answer together

## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS TIP #3

Be interested in their world. Identify things you have in common and other things that you can learn about from each other.

*Tips found at [www.thoughtco.com](http://www.thoughtco.com)*

## STAY CONNECTED

[www.education-connection.org](http://www.education-connection.org)

Facebook -

[www.facebook.com/education-connection.org](https://www.facebook.com/education-connection.org)

Instagram -

[www.instagram.com/ed\\_connect\\_lps](https://www.instagram.com/ed_connect_lps)

Twitter -

[www.twitter.com/ed\\_connect\\_lps](https://www.twitter.com/ed_connect_lps)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Wow! The 2019-2020 school year is under way.

We are in the thick of training and enjoying every minute of it! It's been wonderful seeing all of your faces as a travel to each district!

I am amazed at the attendance and growth we are seeing in many of the districts. There are approximately 6,000 students in the Greater Austin area that could benefit from having a Literacy Partner/Mentor just like you! Would you help us continue to spread the word about Education Connection by sharing our mission with three friends, family members, or church members?

As we head into a new year I appreciate the enthusiasm that I see. Let's make our 10th year one to remember!

Take Care,

AMY HAGEN, LMSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## HAVE A QUESTION?

Email us at [info@education-connection.org](mailto:info@education-connection.org) or give us a call at 512-813-5918. We'd love to connect with you and offer our support in any way we can.