

MID-DAY MENTORING

Started in 2005, Mid-Day Mentoring is a year-long literacy mentorship program for 2nd-3rd grade Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students. Once a week, mentors are transported from their workplaces to a neighborhood school where they meet with their student each week for 45 minutes, enjoying shared reading, conversation, and relationship building activities.



THE NEED

- Research documents that 3rd graders are currently suffering the largest pandemic-related learning losses in reading, compared to older students in grades 4 to 8.
- In December 2021, The Illinois State Board of Education estimated that only 20% of CPS third graders met literacy benchmarks last year, compared to 40% in 2019.
- New research emphasizes the need for resources and programs that support students' emotional well-being, which plays a critical role in their academic success.

HOW WITS MEETS THE NEED

- Shared reading allows readers to successfully take on more challenging texts together. Shared reading also helps students traverse whatever reading terrain lies ahead with experience, confidence, and joy.
- 84% of students agreed that participating in WITS made them want to read for fun more often. Reading for fun leads to more reading engagement and better reading comprehension.
- 100% of our partner teachers are satisfied with student participation in WITS. Teachers value that our programs promote a love of reading and support social-emotional development in students.

THE WITS MISSION

WITS believes that literacy is the foundation on which all other learning develops. Our mission is to empower Chicago elementary students to discover themselves through reading while developing foundational literacy skills. We do this by creating community through literacy-based mentorship, enabling teachers to build diverse classroom libraries, and promoting book ownership at home.

For more information email WITS Program Director, Ellen Werner, ellen@witschicago.org.