

NUMERACY BUDDIES

SUPPORT THAT COUNTS

Blog writing resources



ARDOCH

REALISING CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL
THROUGH EDUCATION

Blog writing rules

Please follow these rules when writing blogs to ensure child safety and a smooth running program!

1. No identifying information

Please ensure the blogs do not include your surname, date of birth, social media handles, email address, home address or phone number.

2. Names

Make sure that your name and your Little Buddy's name are on the blog so we can make sure it goes to the right person!

3. No personal photos

No personal photos. Do not include photos of yourself, friends or family. Photos of pets, famous people, landscapes etc. are encouraged!

4. Child friendly content

Check that any films or music that you write about are child friendly.

5. Neutral language

Please use neutral language to sign off your letter such as "best wishes" rather than "hugs", "with love", "xoxo" etc

6. Child safety

You are the only one able to write as you have done all the compliance processes - please do not allow family members/friends to contribute.

Ardoch Child Safety Commitment

Ardoch is committed to protecting children's rights, safety and wellbeing and has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse

Impactful blog writing

Here are some guidelines to ensure that your blog exchange is impactful for your Little Buddy!

1. Template

Please respond using the template that is provided as this is what the teacher will be working with. All the Little Buddies will be writing to you using this template for each exchange.

2. Numeracy

Make sure you answer the numeracy question - don't worry, it is very easy and we provide answers! The aim of the program is to develop numeracy skills and confidence, so taking the time to explain your answer is encouraged. If your Little Buddy has made a mistake, gently point out the correct method and praise their attempt!

3. Thoughtful content

Your Little Buddy might be from a different cultural background to you - enjoy this opportunity to learn and respond to what they are saying!

4. Support

If there is ever anything in the letter exchange that you find concerning, please let Ardoch and your coordinator know immediately.



What to write in your blogs

Prompts and ideas

You will respond to the numeracy question and what else your Little Buddy writes, but here are some prompts you might like to use in your blogs.

Topics you can write about:

- describing your family
- what a typical day at work involves
- if you use maths in your work, and if so how
- what you like to do on the weekend
- what hobbies you have
- what your favourite subjects at school were
- what job you wanted to do when you were at school
- a favourite joke or interesting fact

Questions to ask your Little Buddy:

- what's something interesting you have recently learned in school?
- what is your favourite food?
- what do you best like about maths?
- what music are you listening to at the moment?
- what are your hobbies?
- who is someone you admire, and why?
- if you could go anywhere in the world on holiday, where would it be and why?
- what jobs might you want to do when you grow up?

Troubleshooting

I didn't receive a blog this time - what do I do?

Sometimes Little Buddies are away or having difficulty in class and so don't manage to write a blog. In this case we ask that you write them a blog regardless so they don't miss out, and hopefully they find it encouraging! If a Little Buddy is away for several rounds, we'll let you know if you need to continue writing based on their teacher's advice.

My Little Buddy wrote a very short blog, how do I respond?

Little Buddies are all at different stages of numerical and writing skill and also class engagement. If you receive a very short blog, try your best to respond to what they have written. You can also ask questions and talk about relatable topics (e.g. what is your favourite animal and why?) to encourage their response in the next round.

My Little Buddy has said something strange/concerning, what do I do?

At Ardoch we screen all blogs and will let you know if there is an issue. However, if you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of your Little Buddy please contact the Ardoch Program Coordinators immediately as child safety is our top priority. We will follow up with the school as necessary and advise you on how to respond.

My Little Buddy's blog doesn't quite make sense, and I'm not sure how to write a good response back to them!

Students are practicing their numeracy and writing skills, and sometimes it doesn't quite go completely to plan! The Little Buddies are often quite young so they may not remember what they wrote last time or might make some mistakes. Just do your best to respond to what they have written, repetition of questions can be helpful (e.g. last time you asked what pets I had, well I have two cats). Having clear working out for the numeracy questions is also very helpful.

Blog examples

Here are two fantastic blog examples from last year to give you an idea of what a Little Buddy might write and how their Big Buddy would respond!

Numeracy Buddies



Buddy's Name: [REDACTED]

Blog Round/Question #1

Number and place value

1) Old Charlie has three dogs. The oldest is Bob, next comes Rex and Fido is the youngest. Fido is 10 years younger than Bob, and none of the dogs are the same age.



When Charlie adds their ages together they come to 28 years. When Charlie multiplies their age together, he gets a number.

What is the smallest number this could be?

Answer: Bob is 13, Rex is 12 and Fido is 3.

Blog Response:

In your blog response remember to:

1. Discuss the current problem posted by the Teacher
2. Answer questions asked by your Buddy last time
3. Ask your Buddy questions - add an update on home/school/work life.

Bob	Rex	Fido
13	12	3

$13 + 12 + 3 = 28$

$13 \times 12 \times 3 = 468$

Hi [REDACTED]

I play pacman, monopoly type of math and thats what I really do.

What is your favorite type of math? Like addition, subtraction, multiplication and more. Mine is multiplication.



- 1) Old Clarrie has three dogs. The oldest is Bob, next comes Rox and Fido is the youngest. Fido is 10 years younger than Bob, and none of the dogs are the same age.

When Clarrie adds their ages together they come to 28 years. When Clarrie multiplies their age together, he gets a number.

What is the smallest number this could be?



Answer: _____

Big Buddy blog response:

In your blog response remember to:

1. Discuss the current problem posted by the Teacher
2. Answer questions asked by your Little Buddy
3. Ask your Buddy questions - add an update on home/school/work life.

Hi [REDACTED]

It is nice to speak with you again.

It is really impressive that you got the right answer! To be honest, the question is pretty difficult. It took me a while to figure out the answer hahahaha 😊 you must be very hard working and smart.

My favourite math type is also multiplication. I used it a lots in my daily works when I need to calculate the force or loading acting on the house. Seems like we will have a lot in common, very exciting to know that we have the same favourite math type. I am sure you can be a good engineer if you are interested in.

Last week, I designed 3 single-storey houses. I had lots of fun. Tell me more about what you learn at school

