



Chapter One

“My happy half-hour...”

Be inspired and excited by these Chapter One testimonials!

Sam Moylan-Heydt, Cisco



“My happy half-hour...I can go into a session and be in the worst mood and come out of it just feeling happier.”

Watch Sam’s short testimonial video [here](#).

“The student I have been paired with is so engaged and clearly enjoys our weekly session too. He even said last week that ‘we’re so lucky to be doing this’ and ‘I love this’. I’m already looking forward to next week!” — **Dom Rooney, Wates Group**

“I can honestly say that teaching Joey was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. Volunteering gave me a chance to have a real, positive impact on this little boy, and watching him grow from hating reading to proudly singing out words is a remarkable experience that I’ll never, ever forget.” — **Jennifer Marris, executive assistant, Deloitte**

“I once asked the little girl I read with what she had enjoyed most about reading a story and she said ‘reading it with you’”. — **Rebecca Forrester, operations manager, UPS**

Laura Haigh, R&Co4Generations project manager, Rothschild & Co



“I once came across the phrase *“How can you read to learn, before you’ve learned to read?”* This struck me because the ability to read is a fundamental life skill. By helping a child who is struggling with their literacy, we are giving them a better start in life and the tools they need to succeed. To me, that is very motivating.”

Read our interview with Laura [here](#).



“My main reason for signing up to the programme was because I had literacy issues when I was small. A teacher invested their time, every break and after school to help me catch up, so I could go to the next school on an equal footing as my peers. I wanted the opportunity to give back, and make another child feel great about reading, instead of being scared, embarrassed or shy. This programme is more rewarding than I ever could have imagined, and to see my pupil progress makes me so proud!” — **Nikki Lilley, executive assistant, SUSE**

“I have been volunteering with Chapter One for several months now, and I absolutely love it. The platform works perfectly and my 30-minute weekly slot can be flexible to fit with my schedule. My mentee’s reading level has increased twice since I started, which has been immensely satisfying.” — **Philip, senior manager, Salesforce**

“I took the most joy from seeing my reading buddy come on. I can’t tell you how much I beamed with excitement and pride when they read words on sight or used a skill we’d worked on. I never knew that hearing someone pronounce complex combinations of letters or being able to read a word without sounding it out first could make me so happy.” — **Cameron Hey, people experience programme manager, Ocado Logistics**

“My favourite 30 minutes of the week! I’m finding Chapter One really easy to use and most importantly Jayden loves it. He doesn’t read much out of school or have many books at home...I’ve seen his confidence increase in all sorts of ways...I was initially sceptical of this not being ‘face-to-face’ but it works surprisingly well and means that there is no wasted time getting to and from the school.” — **Roger Thompson, chief financial officer, Janus Henderson Investors**

And from the classroom...



“I urge businesses to support their staff to volunteer for Chapter One. The difference the volunteers make is real, it is almost immediate, especially with Year 1, and it is transformative to a child’s educational experience and, ultimately - and I don’t say this with any exaggeration - to their life chances.” — **Hina Shah, headteacher, Earlsmead Primary School, Tottenham**

Read our interview with Hina [here](#).

“I had a pupil progress meeting with the teachers and we all agree that Chapter One is definitely helping pupil progress and also definitely giving children a much needed confidence boost. The weekly, guaranteed one to one, ringing-in by an adult, just interested in THEM is so powerful.”— **Karen Taylor, deputy headteacher, Ignatius Primary School, Haringey**

“We thank you so much for the time you’re giving to help our readers. 1:1 practice is so important for children at this age and we’ve noticed how, without exception, your sessions are making a real difference! The kids are so engaged!”
— **Jessica Erler, year 1 teacher, St Luke’s Primary, Islington**

“I think the volunteers should know just how much of a difference they are making to these children’s lives” — **David Taylor, Year 1 teacher, Horton Grange Primary School, Bradford**

Read our Q&A with David about Chapter One [here](#).



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