



## Become a Volunteer Reading Hero with AR Kids Read *ABC employees* to help struggling young readers improve literacy skills!

Educators know that in grades one through three, students **learn to read**, and from fourth grade on, students **read to learn**. But in central Arkansas, approximately 70% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students cannot read at grade level. That makes things tough for these underperforming children, the schools and in the long-term, for our community. Studies have shown that 65% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders reading below grade level will drop out of school and will end up on welfare or in the prison system.

### A Solution

In order to build a stronger future for central Arkansas, area businesses are working together to increase the number of students reading at grade level. The goal is to recruit hundreds of volunteer tutors to join the **AR Kids Read** initiative.

AR Kids Read is a central Arkansas community volunteer initiative to help children read at grade level. All that is required to volunteer is a commitment of one hour per week for 10 weeks. During this time, tutors are able to build relationships with students that promote reading comprehension. Tutors work one-on-one with two students for an

### **Sample - Employee Recruitment Message (Long version)**

hour a week (30 minutes per student). Time slots are available throughout the school day.

No previous experience is necessary! Tutors are provided a one-hour orientation and training session, and online video tips to help you become an academic hero in the life of a child. There is no material or preparation guide, just your time reading with the student(s). AR Kids Read currently works within all four school districts in the Pulaski County community.

#### **If you would like to volunteer, there are two steps to take:**

1. First, check with your immediate supervisor to discuss how to schedule your volunteer hour of tutoring each week.
2. Second, please call or email **ABC Company's** AR Kids Read Coordinator, \_\_\_\_\_.

For more information about AR Kids Read, visit the web site at [www.ARKidsRead.org](http://www.ARKidsRead.org).

To sign up to become a reading tutor, contact **ABC's** Outreach Coordinator:

**Name, Title, Telephone, Email** (or register on volunteer page at [www.ARKidsRead.org](http://www.ARKidsRead.org)).