

Students Helping Students by Getting Involved

by Bruce Larson

Here is some advice for teachers and students. If you are a student and you feel you can give something to your program, you can ask a teacher, "How can I get involved in my program? What would I be good at? How could I help our program?"

Once you get involved in your program, listen to what other students in your program need and what they want. For example, in my program I heard students say they needed a place to study so I started a study group. A

I also started a summer reading group because there were no classes during the summer, but the students and I wanted to keep practicing our reading. The last three summers we have been meeting once a week to read a book and discuss it. There is no teacher.

teacher helped me find a room at a community center, where we can meet once a week with no interruptions. I help the group do their homework. I also started a summer reading group because there were no classes during the summer, but the students and I wanted to keep

practicing our reading. The last three summers we have been meeting once a week to read a book and discuss it. There is no teacher. If you are a teacher, you can ask students if they would like to help the program by giving



Bruce Larson's reading group.

back some of what they learned. For example, you can suggest that they could assist the teacher in a class, or do some one-on-one tutoring. I have helped students when they were writing, and when they got stuck I told them what I did when I was stuck. It is sometimes more comfortable for a student to get help from another student.

Being involved in your program can be rewarding. It makes me feel good to work with others and to see the progress we are all making. It makes me want to stay in the program so I can keep learning and keep helping others. I really enjoy everything I'm doing, and I think you will too if you get involved in your program.

Bruce Larson is a student leader at the Alameda County Library Write to Read Program. He recently attended the Henry Huffman Leadership Institute, and he plans to give a workshop next summer on self-esteem for students in his program.