

## Read for Life

**For some children, learning to read is a difficult process, often leading to low self-esteem and lack of confidence.**

**Read for Life** Community Interest Company is a Portsmouth based social enterprise. They train and support volunteers to help primary school children with their reading, not only in Portsmouth but also in the surrounding southeast Hampshire boroughs.

This Service used to be provided by the Hampshire branch of a national charity but in March 2008, they withdrew from the area. Mary and Sukhi, two of its former employees, were determined to carry on as they knew how beneficial the scheme was so in May 2008, Read for Life CIC was formed. They were pleased to say that in their first year of operation, Read for Life has helped 80 children improve their reading skills and develop in confidence.

Their volunteers work 1:1 with pupils once a week playing reading games and supporting them with reading a range of texts and breaking down difficult complex words. They will also talk to the child about what they have read asking them who, what, when, why, how questions and asking them for their opinions about what they have read.