



The Smith Family believes that education has the power to transform lives, not just minds. The national charity helps young people in need to fully participate in their education so they can create better futures for themselves and break the cycle of disadvantage.

[www.thesmithfamily.com.au](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au)

Within Morphett Vale Primary School there are a number of programs facilitated by The Smith Family. These include Learning Clubs and the Student2Student reading program.

### **Learning Clubs**

Learning Clubs are safe, supportive out of school hours learning environments, where students have the opportunity to access resources, expertise and assistance with their homework and curriculum content.

The aim of a Learning Club is to support the educational and personal development of students. Students/Parents' involvement with Learning Clubs enables them to access local volunteers who possess the appropriate skills and knowledge to support Club activities.

Learning Clubs provide:

- \* a supportive learning environment for children and young people
- \* an opportunity for children and young people to develop further their skills and confidence as learners
- \* an opportunity for parents to contribute more fully to their children's learning
- \* an opportunity for increased community participation through volunteering
- \* an opportunity to work collaboratively with community partners
- \* an opportunity to build social capital and strengthen communities

There are two Learning Clubs currently operating within Morphett Vale Primary School. An Active Learning Club is where students get an extra opportunity to learn about different sports and participate in an active environment. This is held on Mondays from 3:15 – 4:15. And a traditional learning club, for students wanting help with their studies, on Wednesdays from 3:15 – 4:15.

### **Student2Student**

Literacy skills are essential and a student's ability to read and write today will determine their future ability to participate in school, the community and later, the workforce. That is why it is so important to provide effective literacy support to students who have difficulty with reading.

The aim of the student2student program is to improve students reading levels, which in turn increases their confidence and their ability to cope with, and understand, their everyday school work.

The student2student program is offered to students who are assessed as reading 1-2 years behind their actual age. For example, a student may be 10 years old but reading at the level of an 8 year-old. The student2student program runs for an 18 weeks period in the school year.

Students are matched with buddies who attend a school in a different location, with both students only knowing each other's given names.

The buddy telephones the student 2-3 times a week and listens to the student read for at least 20 minutes each time. The buddy uses the skills learnt in their training to assist the student with their reading. The program is available to students with a landline and a mobile phone program is available in specific areas for students without a landline.

The buddy keeps a simple record of each phone contact and reports progress to a volunteer supervisor fortnightly.

For more information on these programs or The Smith Family sponsorship program, please call Lani Chatfield on 83 827 619