The Writers’ Exchange (vancouverwe.com) is a charity that gets inner-city kids excited about reading, writing and their own potential through fun, engaging and wacky activities.

If you love reading, writing and working with kids, then join our team of Literacy Mentors! You can have fun while helping kids build their literacy skills and self-esteem through tutoring and creative writing projects.

Mentors support kids (ages 6 to 13) during literacy games, help them read picture books and graphic novels, and encourage their creativity during crafts and writing time. (And mentors often get to make their own crafts, too!) You don’t need to plan the activities—just show up ready to support the kids.

This is an especially great volunteering opportunity if you’re thinking about working with children or youth in any capacity and want to gain experience and hours working with kids.

We encourage applications from people from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTTIQQ2SA folks, Indigenous peoples, people of all colours, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities or another equity-seeking group with which you identify.

Who can volunteer? Anyone who is:

- 16 years or older
- fully commit to at least one in-school program (1.5 hours / week for 5 weeks) and/or after-school program for at least one full term (2 hours / week for 3 months). Our terms run from September - December, January - March, April - June, and July - August.
- passionate about children's literacy and not afraid to be silly!

How do I become a volunteer? You need to complete:

1. an application form
2. a parental/guardian consent form (if you are under 18) or an online criminal records check (if you are over 18)
3. a three-hour orientation session—where you'll learn about the fun activities we do, what a typical shift looks like, safety stuff and some tips to make you a great mentor
4. an hour-and-a-half training session that focuses on how to support the kids’ emotional, social and behavioral needs

Deadline for spring applications (the spring term runs from early April until the end of June) is Monday, March 2nd.

Check out vancouverwe.com/volunteerspring2020 for more details, or contact Liz, at eellis@vancouverwe.com.