Prevent Summer Reading Loss

Articles


How Idaho Falls Public Library boosted traditionally weak late Summer Reading Program (SRP) participation by hosting weekly themed parties in August. They found that both circulation and SRP participation continued to grow in August.


Suggestions for creating online discussion groups for summer reading programs. Identifies potential challenges and benefits. Provides first year evaluation of their efforts along with a reading list.


Results of interviews with school staff involved in the creation of summer reading lists for their students. Ms. Gorman discovered that public libraries were often the last to know about school issued summer reading lists.


A collaborative summer reading effort in Cobb County (Georgia) between the local school district and the local public library. The district adopted the public library’s theme from the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), as well as shared their reading list with the public library so it could be crossed referenced with their collection.


An “extend summer reading” program done in November called Be Excited About Reading (B.E.A.R) Bingo.


From the article: “Results of this study suggested that those who enroll in SRCs are relatively diverse with respect to race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status; however, enrollees also tend to be motivated toward reading and to be capable readers. Implications for broadening community members’ participation in SRCs are discussed.”

Article states that summer reading programs are more effective when books are actively matched to students, parents take time to listen to their children read and when teachers offered fluency and comprehension strategy lessons at the end of the school year. Left on their own, children had a tendency to select material above or below their reading level, which prevented skill building during the summer.


Asserts that the ability to freely choose reading material may be the difference between readers and non-readers. Presents information on how current summer reading programs are run and offers suggestions on broadening student choice.


An overview and evaluation of the Auckland Public Libraries’ first summer reading program. Includes information on marketing, execution and measurement.


You have worked hard on your Summer Reading Program. Here is some brief advice on crafting your results into a story for your funders and community partners.


Literature review and results of a study that examined evidence of the usefulness of Summer Reading Programs. Offers demographics of participants and recommendations for future actions.


Report of a pilot project to bring summer reading programs to where children were. Factors for increased participation in programs are noted.


Lighthearted yet accurate look at statements and habits that can discourage young readers, set to an alphabet.


An overview of programs, incentives and evaluation efforts related to summer reading programs. Suggestions include tracking minutes read instead of books and giving books for incentives rather than toys.

Report of the creation of a pre-reader Summer Reading Program focused on Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) practices including talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. Parents and children completed an activity log together. Initial results of the program are presented.


Suggestions for school librarians and media specialists creating school based Summer Reading Programs. Authors advise creators of school based Summer Reading Programs to share ideas and solicit input from local public librarians and bookstore staff.

---

**Websites**

**Alaska State Library.**  [Alaska Statewide Summer Reading Program](http://www.cslpreads.org)  

The Alaska State Library, with the cooperation of the Alaska Library Association, annually sponsors a theme and makes a basic starter kit of materials for summer reading available to public and community libraries in Alaska. The materials are developed in a cooperative with approximately 28 other states as part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, which can be found at [http://www.cslpreads.org](http://www.cslpreads.org).

**American Camp Association.**  [Explore 30 Camp Reading Program](http://www.american.camper.com)  

Program designed to encourage children reading at least 30 minutes a day. A free program for “camps and other youth development organizations interested in starting either a formal or informal reading program.” Includes links to read aloud checks, guide for staff assisted reading and other reading resources.

**American Library Association.**  [Library Summer Reading Programs – ALA Library Fact Sheet 17](http://www.ala.org)  

Resource guide divided into the topics of: Themes, Grants, Research, Best Practices, Outreach and Programming, Summer Reading Lists and History.

**Public Library Association.**  [Evaluating Summer Reading Programs: Suggested Improvements](http://www.pla.org) (May 2013)  

A review and summary of the literature on the effectiveness of summer school and summer reading programs. The “Implications” section of the page offers suggestions to improve summer reading program outcomes.

**New York State Library’s Statewide Summer Reading Program.**  [Highlights of Research on Summer Reading and Effects on Student Achievement](http://www.nypl.org)  

Important articles on summer reading and student achievement are highlighted. These lead to the conclusions: 1) public library summer reading programs enhance student achievement, even when compared to direct instruction and 2) research and experiences with promoting summer reading show how essential partnerships are between schools and public libraries.

*Updated April 2015*