



**Turn
The Page**
STL

SUMMER LEARNING REPORT

*Infusing an Hour of Literacy a Day & High-Impact Tutoring
with Summer Camp Programs in St. Louis Promise Zone Communities*

2025



Kristine Loomis, Literacy Coach, Turn the Page STL

Lisa Greening, M.A.T, Executive Director, Turn the Page STL

#stlreads.

Turn the Page STL



Mission:

Turn the Page STL is a city, county-wide literacy initiative dedicated to increasing the number of children that are reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade in the St. Louis community. Turn the Page STL is St. Louis' chapter of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading.

Vision:

St. Louis is a community with no disparities in literacy, based on race or zip code. All children are able to read proficiently by the end of third grade, contributing to their long-term academic outcomes (eg. graduating from high school, career readiness), and personal well-being.

Geographic Areas Served:

Our primary geographic focus includes the seven Promise Zone School Districts in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Those include Hazelwood Public Schools, Jennings School District, Ferguson-Florissant School District, Normandy Schools Collaborative, Riverview Gardens, St. Louis Public Schools, and the School District of University City.

Understanding:

Our work is viewed through a racial equity lens with the understanding that racial inequity in metropolitan St. Louis' public education system has contributed to generations of illiterate citizens.

Letter from Turn the Page STL

Students that aren't reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. According to 2024 3rd Grade MAP ELA assessment data, an average of only 19.8% of students in our St. Louis Promise Zone School Districts are reading proficiently by the end of third grade. Third grade is a crucial time when students transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn".

This summer I had the privilege of working with the following full day camps, each serving kids in St. Louis Promise Zone School District Communities; Better Family Life, Bayer YMCA, Emerson YMCA, Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club, O'Fallon Park Rec Complex YMCA, New Sunny Mount Baptist Church/Wesley House and Unleashing Potential at Immanuel Church.

During the summer months, low-income and non-white students tend to fall behind their more affluent peers academically, widening the income-achievement gap over time. However, several studies suggest one hour a day reinforcing key skills from the previous school year can limit learning loss over the summer, preventing the summer slide. Turn the Page STL's Summer Learning Program infuses an hour of literacy a day. We provide in-person training for camp counselors, literacy kits, fun reading incentives and new this summer, we added high-impact tutors at four camps!

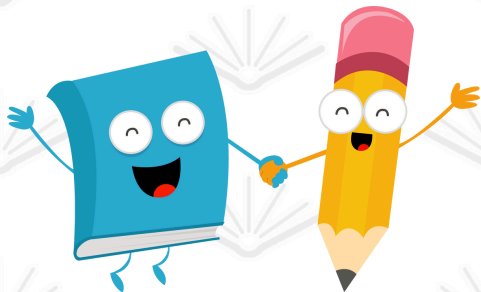
Two weeks prior to the first day of camp, an EF3 tornado touched down and quickly grew stronger as it moved through northern portions of St. Louis, causing damage that will take years to rebuild. One of our partner camp sites was directly hit, radically altering the lives of those young campers, their families and neighborhoods. We are committed to providing early literacy supports to St. Louis's most vulnerable communities now more than ever.

Thank you to the following funders for continuing to support this work; Emerson, Incarnate Word Foundation, Light a Single Candle Foundation, NISA Charitable Trust, Norman J. Stupp Foundation and The Saigh Foundation. We are also incredibly grateful for the dedication of our camp directors and staff.



Kristine E. Loomis
Literacy Coach, Turn the Page STL

A Summer Slide Solution



Summer learning loss or the summer slide, is the loss of academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacation in countries that have lengthy breaks in the school year, such as the US and Canada.

Research studies produce different results as to the extent of the loss; however, they all appear to agree that the loss in learning varies across age, grade, subject matter, family income, and socioeconomic status.

In 2017, one review of the research in the U.S.A. concluded that (1) on average students lost one month of learning over the summer months, AND (2) the income-learning gap was especially significant because middle- class students tended to show an improvement in reading skills during the summer while lower-income students tended to experience a loss in reading skills.

“The cumulative effect [summer learning loss] is a crisis in the making: by the fifth grade, summer learning loss can leave low-income students two-and-a-half to three years behind their peers. Students who fall behind over the summer are [also] less likely to graduate from high school or go on to college.” (National Summer Learning Association)

Participating Summer Camp Programs

Building upon success from 2023 and 2024, we continued to partner and strengthen relationships with many of the same summer camp providers. According to Blueprint4, there are more than 10,000 summer opportunities in the St. Louis area. However, very few of those are full-day and located in our lowest-income communities, St. Louis Promise Zones.

The camp providers listed below offer full-day programming throughout summer and have capacity to support our program as well as evaluation needs. All of the participating camps are seven to nine weeks long.

Better Family Life
Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club in Souland
Unleashing Potential at Immanuel Church
Wesley House/ New Sunny Mount Church
YMCA - Bayer Branch
YMCA - Emerson Branch
YMCA - O'Fallon Park



Our 2025 Summer Literacy Program

Program Overview

- What We Did
 - Camp Director Meetings
 - Literacy Kits
 - Training
 - On-Site Support
 - Free Book Fridays
 - Independent Reading Contest
 - Assessments & Data Collection
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- Goals & Results
 - Hour of Literacy a Day
 - High-Impact Tutoring
- Recommendations

Addendum of Literacy Resources & Supports

- St. Louis Public Library
- St. Louis County Library
- Ferguson Public Library
- University City Library
- Nine PBS Resources
- Missouri History Museum

What We Did


Planning Meetings with Camp Directors

Each of the participating summer camp partners signed the following Memorandum of Understanding with Turn the Page STL. Turn the Page STL lead three collaborative meetings (December 2024, February 2025 and April 2025) with directors from each summer camp in attendance.

Turn the Page STL's 2025 Summer Literacy Infusion
Memorandum of Understanding
with Camp Programs

Purpose: To ensure participation in a summer literacy infusion pilot program.

Partners:

_____ Camp Program	_____ Contact Person
and	
_____ Turn the Page STL	 Lisa Greening, Director


Turn the Page STL will:

- Convene three meetings a year with camp program partners to design a summer literacy infusion program and toolkit for summer camps providing services for campers, ages 5-10, in St. Louis Promise Zone communities.
- Solicit revenue to ensure the production, resources and training of the summer literacy infusion program.
- Support the summer camp programs throughout the process to ensure easy implementation and effective results.

Summer Camp program will:

- Select a camp contact person who will attend three 90-minute meetings a year to collaborate in the design of a summer literacy infusion program and toolkit.
- Based on the camp sites determined, use the collaboratively written Summer Literacy Program and Toolkit during the summer of 2025.
- When onboarding camp counselors, provide an hour of training, provided by Turn the Page STL, virtual or in-person.
- Assist in the facilitation of pre and post assessments for participants, as determined by the cohort.
- Distribute incentives for children, families and camp programs to participate, provided by Turn the Page STL.
- Provide feedback about the program during the program

Signed:

Lisa Greening, Turn the Page STL, December 6, 2024	
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Summer Camp Contact's Signature, Name of Camp, Date

What We Did

Literacy Kits

For the third year, each partner site received new literacy kits for every grouping of campers between 5-11 years old as well as a book kit for their site to share. The kits complemented those provided the previous summer.

EyeSeeMe Bookstore curated book kits to be culturally responsive and specific to the different themes at each camp. Half of the books were based on their summer theme and the other 30 books were a variety of new releases, graphic novels and fun decodable books.

Each Literacy Kit contained the following games & materials:

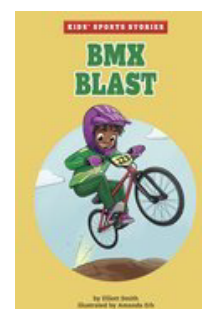
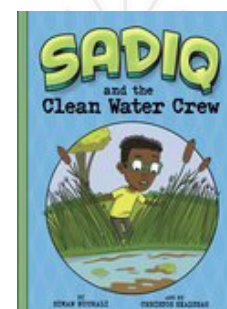
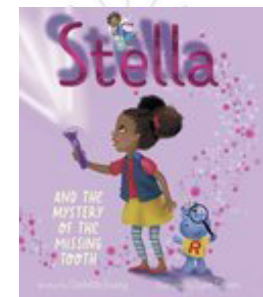
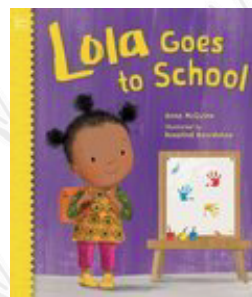
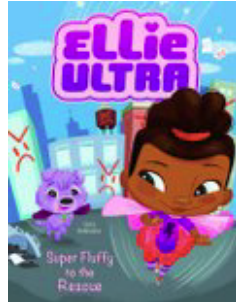
- AGO Phonics Zero
- Apples to Apples Junior
- BAMbingo
- My First BANANAGRAMS
- Splat!
- Riddle Moo This!
- Scrabble SLAM
- UpWords
- Mini Composition Journals
- Book of Stickers
- Pencils (standard & thick beginner pencils)
- Pencil Sharpener
- Dry Erase Boards, Markers & Erasers
- Washable Markers
- Crayons
- Index Cards
- Sharpies
- Blueprint4 Activity Books
- Literacy Resources Binder
- Laminated Reading Goal Thermometer
- Independent Reading Contest Materials (including prizes)

Thank you again to our New City School sixth graders and teachers for helping us assemble kits. Completed literacy and book kits were delivered directly to camps by Simple Moves moving services.



What We Did

Book Kit Sample



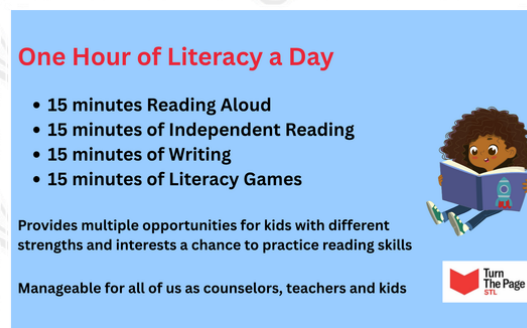
African American
Children's Bookstore

What We Did

Training

In-person training was provided for staff at each of our summer camp partner sites. The objective of the training is to provide an overview of our “One-Hour-of-Literacy-A-Day” program as well as provide implementation tools.

New this year, our “One-Hour-of-Literacy-A-Day” training was approved by the Missouri Professional Development System (MOPD) and attendees could earn professional development hours.



We held our first in-person training sessions for summer 2025, during the Active Learning Institute in April, hosted by the Missouri AfterSchool Network.



“Yes! It [training] was very informative and provided necessary resources and examples to be able to have a successful program.”

-Summer Camp Director

“The representative was very thorough about what was expected of the staff; and how to implement the program to campers.”

-Summer Camp Director

The training helped all of us be on the same page and increased the fidelity of our implementation.

-Summer Camp Staff Member

What We Did

On-Site Support

During the weeks leading up to camp, all literacy materials are delivered to each camp location. On-site trainings are also scheduled during this time.

Throughout the summer on-site support for camp staff and directors is regularly provided. This includes multiple site visits and restocking kit materials as needed.

Free Book Fridays!

Last year we organized a one-time Family Book-A-Palooza with new free books campers could take home. We received feedback from our summer 2024 surveys that a weekly “Free Book Friday” might be a better approach.

Turn the Page STL, provided enough books for each site to set-up a table with new free books every Friday throughout camp. It’s a great way for kids to go home with a book their excited about and promote weekend reading.



What We Did

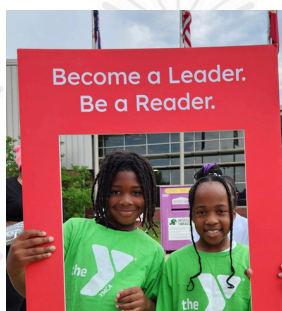
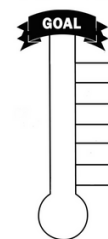
Independent Reading Contest

To encourage and build excitement around independent reading time we added an Independent Reading Contest. Last year Turn the Page STL piloted “Reading At Home” but participation was low, so we decided to shift towards a model that would take place during camp hours. Campers had more time to explore their Book Kits curated by EyeSeeMe.

Camps were given poster size laminated “Our Reading Goal” thermometers to set their own benchmarks. Some sites focused on the total number of books read while others kept track of total minutes. When campers finished reading a book they filled out a “My Book Review” card. Completed cards were put in a raffle box container that was decorated by campers. Each Friday, counselors would randomly draw a card and that camper could select a small prize provided by Turn the Page STL. To celebrate camps reaching their collective reading goals, Turn the Page STL organized an ice cream truck to go to each camp site for campers and staff to enjoy.



Our Reading Goal!



My Book Review

My Name: Lory Today's Date: July 14, 2025

Book Title: Dead End Detention

Author: Jennifer Killick

I give this book: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Yes or No

What was your favorite part? When their teacher got pulled underground

Turn in for a chance to win a prize!



What We Did

Assessments & Data Collection

For the third consecutive year, Hope Education, led by Robin Boda, compiled pre and post assessment data from each of our summer camp partner sites. This year we made an effort to pre and post assess as many campers as possible to help identify which kids could benefit most from high-impact tutoring.

In order to assess more campers, pre and post assessments were conducted by Jenn Burris of Restored For More, Restored For More tutors as well as Hope Education tutors. Assessments were conducted using CBM measures (Curriculum-Based Measurement) and DDS (Diagnostic Decoding Survey). CBM uses brief timed tests to determine how students are progressing academically.

To assess reading, campers were asked to read aloud for one minute. The number of words correct per minute were counted to determine their Passage Reading Fluency (PRF) score. Percent accuracy is found by dividing the number of correct words read by the number attempted. The percentile is a national norm given by CBM for the number of words read correctly in a minute. Complete pre and post data sets were compiled for a total of 108 campers.

Following post assessments, Turn the Page STL, Hope Education and Restored For More met to review assessment data and discuss methods to continue improving the process in summer 2026.

A majority of campers pre assessed scored below the 20th percentile. "It is the most difficult for students to increase their Passage Reading Fluency when it is below 20% as well as the most time consuming for instruction" Robin Boda.



What We Did

High-Impact Tutoring

New this year, Turn the Page STL partnered with Jenn Burris, Executive Director at Restored For More to recruit, train and support high-impact tutors. The tutors were embedded in four of our summer camp partner sites for 12 hours a week providing high-impact tutoring. Restored For More trained a total of 7 tutors. Five of the tutors were recruited by Restored For More and 2 tutors were staff at one of the camps. Turn the Page STL financed tutor recruitment, training, support, instructional materials and hourly pay.

High-Impact Tutoring is defined as:

- Frequent (2 to 3 times a week) for 20-30 minutes
- One-on-one or small group sessions (no more than 4 students)
- Professionally trained tutors
- Relationship-building by having students meet with the same tutor each session
- High-quality materials that align with classroom content

Tutor Vetting:

- Final selection of tutors came down to those who had experience working with students from at-risk communities, familiarity with UFLI Foundations and experience designing lesson plans.
- All hired tutors were fingerprinted and cleared through MACHS (Missouri Automated Criminal History System)
- All hired tutors were trained in trauma awareness education, assessing students, how to provide individualized instruction and how to implement UFLI Foundations before working at camps.

About Restored For More:

Restored For More exists to empower students from at-risk communities through tutoring and mentoring. They recruit, train, send and resource tutors and mentors to local schools and non-profit organizations in St. Louis City and County.



Goals & Results - Hour of Literacy a Day

Goals

The measurable goals set for our 2025 Summer Literacy Infusion program included:

For Campers

- 70%** will improve in their Passage Reading Fluency Score, based on CBM assessments
- 70%** will increase in their Passage Reading Accuracy based on CBM assessments
- 70%** will increase in their Decoding Ability, based on Diagnostic Decoding Survey assessments

For Counselors

- 95%** will understand the importance of literacy and infusing literacy during their summer camp program
- 95%** will utilize our summer literacy infusion kits
- 95%** will want to continue the summer literacy infusion program

Results

The measurable results for our 2025 Summer Literacy Infusion program included:

For Campers (grades 1-5)

- 69%** increased (65%) or maintained (4%) in their Passage Reading Fluency Score
- 64%** increased (51%) or maintained (13%) in their Passage Reading Accuracy
- 71%** increased (64%) or maintained (7%) in their Decoding Ability

For Counselors

- 100%** understood the importance of literacy and infusing literacy during the summer camp day
- 93%** utilized our summer literacy infusion kits
- 100%** want to continue the summer literacy infusion program

Results - High Impact Tutoring

As previously mentioned, this year was the first summer Turn the Page STL embedded high-impact tutors in summer camp partner sites.

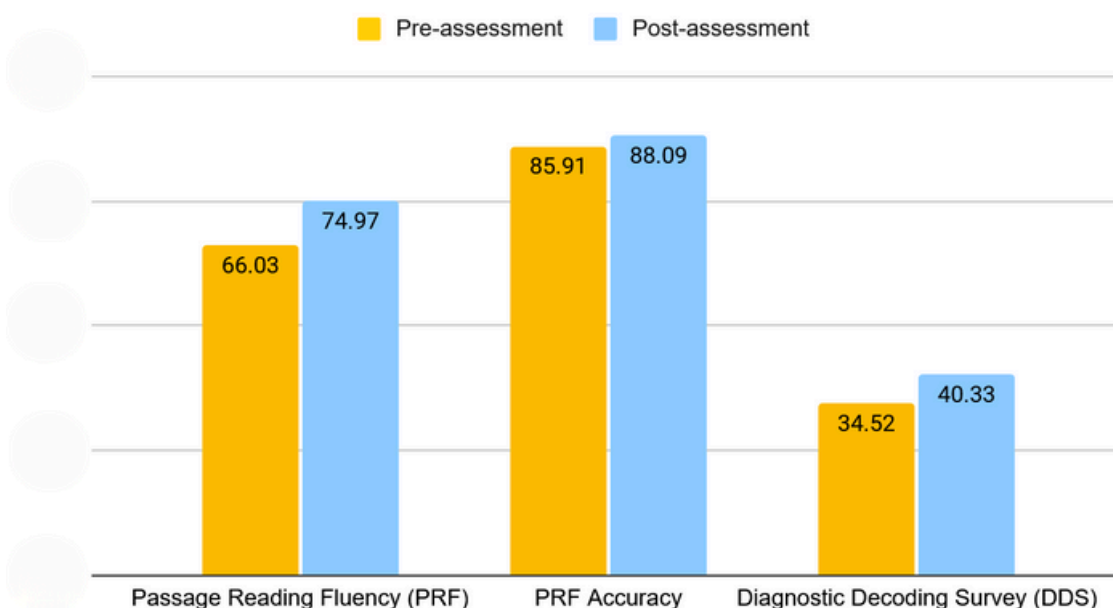
Tutoring services were provided by seven tutors at four camp sites for a total of 68 students, 54 of those 68 campers have complete pre & post assessment data sets.

The graph below shows average Passage Reading Fluency(PRF), Passage Reading Accuracy and Diagnostic Decoding Survey(DDS) assessment scores for both campers that received tutoring and those that only received An-Hour-of-Literacy-A-Day. ***On average, campers at our partner sites were not only able to prevent the summer slide, but showed improvement.***

Figure 1 shows averages of all campers, those that received High-Impact Tutoring in addition to One-Hour-of-Literacy-A-Day. In Figure 2, we see significant increases when isolating campers that received tutoring. Then in Figure 3, we can still see some improvement in Passage Reading Fluency averages and maintenance of Diagnostic Decoding Survey averages for students who only received One-Hour-of-Literacy-A-Day (no tutoring services).

Figure 1

Pre & Post Assessment Score Averages (Tutoring & Hour of Literacy)



Results - High Impact Tutoring

Tutors were instructed to focus on campers with pre-assessments that fell below 40%. Although there is much room for growth, it's most difficult for students to increase their Passage Reading Fluency (PRF) when it is below 20% (and more time consuming for instruction), a little easier at 30%, and at 40% kids can often begin self-teaching.

Figure 2

Average PRF & DDS Scores - High Impact Tutoring

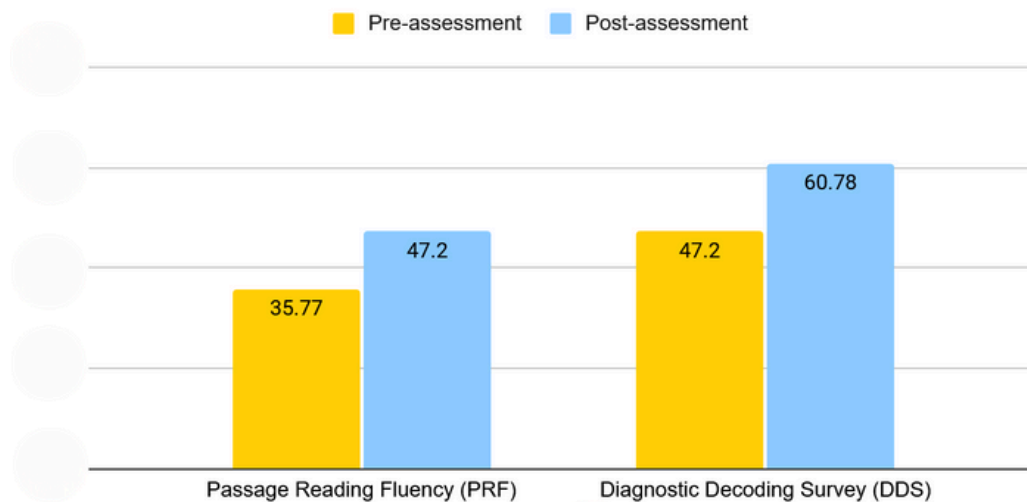
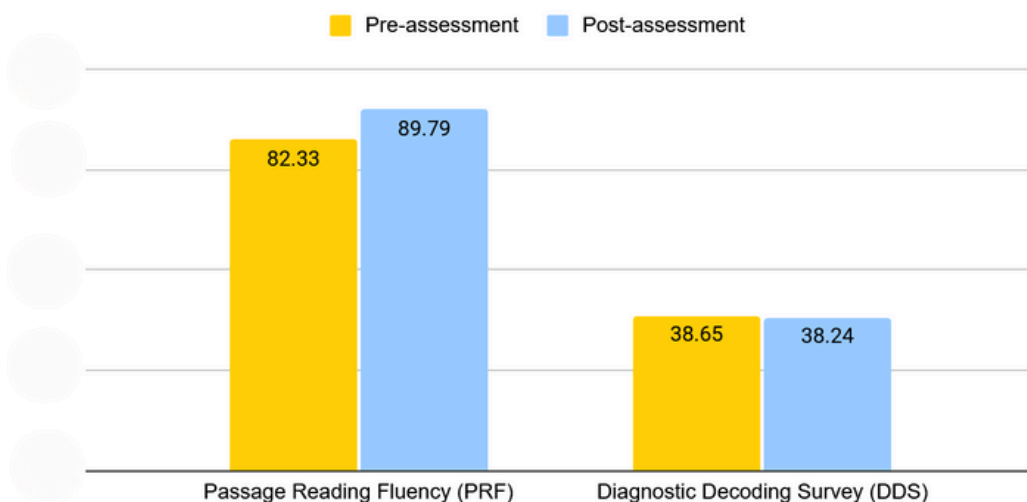


Figure 3

Average PRF & DDS Scores - Hour of Literacy Only (No Tutoring Services)



Program Recommendations

During the last week of each summer camp, camp directors and counselors were surveyed about their experiences with the program. Turn the Page STL met with Restored For More, Hope Education, summer camp directors as well as Blueprint4 to get additional verbal feedback in August and September 2025. Below are the primary recommendations from both the survey and in-person meetings.

Hour of Literacy Infusion Recommendations from Surveys

Digital tracker for counselors to record the frequency each of the four Hour-of-Literacy components are implemented.

More games, the kids loved the games but started to get tired of them by the end of the summer.

Add gallon size bags to literacy kits for campers to keep individual materials organized (eg. journals, writing utensils, etc.)

Assessment Recommendations

Require a camp roster to improve consistency in spelling names and accurate grade level information.

Hold an assessment specific training for tutors closer to the beginning of camp.

Restored For More to review pre-assessment scores with tutors to make sure students below 40% are selected for tutoring. Then work together to develop a plan for one-on-one vs small group tutoring sessions based on scores to increase number of campers with access to high-impact and high-quality tutoring.

Restored For More to organize and distribute tutoring rosters to assist with accurately tracking total tutoring minutes data.

Review the importance of completing all pre & post-assessment data points with tutors.

In addition to these recommendations, Turn the Page STL is focused on increasing the total number of campers participating in our Summer Learning Program in 2026.



Combating the Summer Slide

Mary Bueckendorf, Academic Coordinator

This year, Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club's Summer Camp provided 160 kids each day with fun-filled days in a safe, supportive environment. Our members got to try out golf, tennis, robotics and more. Campers spent hours in the swimming pool having fun and learning life skills that will keep them safe around water. They took field trips, fixed up bikes, learned about soldering and coding. They made art, friends and memories during the 8 weeks of camp. Just as important as all of the recreation, Summer Camp also included the Hour of Literacy, a program intended to combat the Summer Slide.



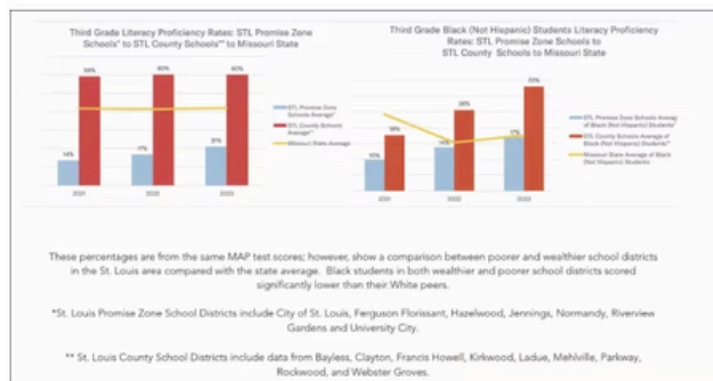
Summer Slide is the name given to the learning loss that occurs over the summer. Assessments have shown that students can lose up to two months in reading achievement over the summer vacation. This loss is more pronounced among children from disadvantaged groups. Researchers have stated that "over half of the reading achievement gap is attributable to unequal access to summer learning opportunities. In addition, the loss is cumulative. "By the time they reach 5th grade, students affected by summer learning loss can lag behind their peers by 2.5 to 3 years."

For the third year, Gene Slay's was proud to partner with **Turn the Page STL** to fight the Summer Slide through the Hour of Literacy. The Hour of Literacy consisted of 15 minutes each of a read aloud, independent reading, independent writing, and literacy activities and games. Turn the Page STL provided many books related to our theme, Find Your Voice, additional high interest books for campers to use for independent reading and approximately 300 books to send home with campers. Gene Slay's Learning Specialists, certified teachers who provide tutoring during the Afterschool Program, facilitated the Hour of Literacy with our members.

At Gene Slay's, the Hour of Literacy revolved around the camp theme, Find Your Voice. Campers heard stories about people who found their voice and wrote stories about being their own superhero and following their passions. They worked on building the stamina to read and write independently. Campers played games to build phonics skills and vocabulary. Additionally, in 2025 Turn the Page STL provided High Impact Tutoring for members whose reading level was determined to be the most significantly below grade level.



While the data is not complete for the 2025 Summer Camp, we have every reason to believe that the Hour of Literacy will have had a positive impact on our campers based on previous year's results. In 2024, we found that 70% of our campers maintained or increased their reading scores. 23% maintained their scores and 47% increased. Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club is committed to supporting our members' academic performance.



Citations

Schwartz, Heather L., Jennifer Sloan McCombs, Catherine H. Augustine, and Jennifer T. Leschitz, *Getting to Work on Summer Learning: Recommended Practices for Success*, 2nd Ed. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2018. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR366-1.html.



SUMMER LITERACY RESOURCES

20
25

Dear Summer Camp Leaders,

Turn the Page STL is thrilled to provide you with literacy infusion resources for your 2025 summer camps. Based on national research, students who participate in at least one hour of literacy activities a day, plus engage in literacy activities with their families, will improve their literacy skills over the summer.

Summer Literacy Infusion is primarily about having FUN!!! For one hour a day, every day, we are asking you to implement 15 minutes of reading aloud a book to the group, 15 minutes of independent or partner reading, 15 minutes of writing, and 15 minutes of literacy games. We will also host "Free Book Fridays" for campers and families to select books to take home as well as information about summer library reading programs.

In this book, there are resources from our public libraries, Nine PBS, The Missouri History Museum, a daily tracker for you to complete and independent reading contest materials. In addition to the resource book, you will receive a literacy kit, a box of read-aloud books, independent reading books, and literacy games.

As the new literacy coach for Turn the Page STL, I am excited to offer additional support and guidance throughout the summer to you and your counselors. Whether it is the initial kick-off training, pre-assessing campers, or providing on-site, real-time assistance, I am happy to help make your summer literacy infusion as seamless as possible and supply your camps with fun materials for success.

You are KEY to ensuring your students can read proficiently. Thank you. When STL families read, our community will succeed.

With much appreciation,

Kristine Loomis



*You are KEY to
ensuring our
students can
read proficiently.
When STL
families read, our
community will
succeed.*

*Please reach out with questions or additional support
kristine.loomis@turnthepagestl.org*

#stlreads

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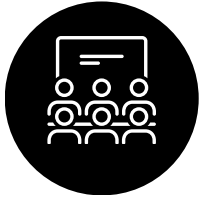
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Nine PBS Resources

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Missouri History Museum

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



READ ALOUD

Read Aloud has been shown through research to be a critical element for maintaining and improving reading achievement. This is the time for adults to share their excitement about reading in a way that helps students make connections to themselves, other books and the world. This summer, we have provided you with a curated collection of great read-alouds from Eye See Me Bookstore. Each day, choose one of them, possibly a favorite book of yours from home, or contact the public libraries for additional read-alouds and independent reading books.



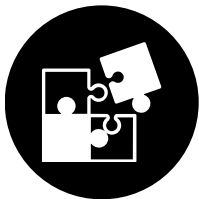
INDEPENDENT READING

Independent reading helps develop “reading muscle.” One of the strongest indicators of student reading success is the amount of time spent reading, especially when students are reading individually selected books that they are able to read without coaching or help. This summer, we have provided you with books that campers can read independently or with a partner. If you already have books at your site, include those too!



WRITING

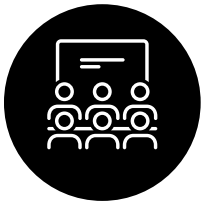
Writing also helps prevent the summer slide. Writing can be modeled by staff through brainstorming activities using children’s ideas and responses. Journaling is the most common way children respond to things they are doing, stories, and summer activities. A particular writing activity may last 10 minutes or be completed over several days. Be creative! Notebooks, markers, and pencils are provided.



LITERACY GAMES

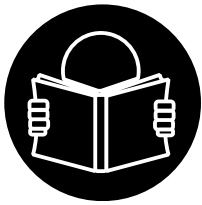
Nine pre-purchased games will be provided to each camp counselor to bring the fun of site words, reading, decoding and fluency to each camper every day. Games included are: AGO Phonics Zero, Apples to Apples Junior, BAMbingo(2), BANANAGRAMS, Rhyming Words Splat!, Riddle Moo This!, Scrabble Slam! and UpWords.

ONE HOUR OF LITERACY PER DAY



01 — READ ALOUD

Camp counselors will select a high-interest, culturally relevant book to read-aloud each day to a group of campers. These read-alouds will include pauses in the story for prompts and literacy-rich discussion. (15 MINUTES)



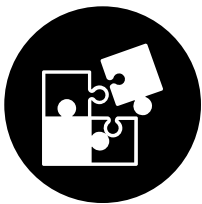
02 — INDEPENDENT READING

With support from camp counselors, campers will select an appropriately leveled book for independent reading combined with a fun contest! (15 MINUTES)



03 — WRITING

With materials from the supplied kits, each camper will have a writing activity each day. Examples include journals, writing comic books, unique prompts, etc. (15 MINUTES)



04 — LITERACY GAMES

Learning should be FUN! Campers will engage in a variety of literacy-rich games throughout the camp with resources provided from the literacy kits. (15 MINUTES)

DATA TRACKING

WHY DO WE TRACK DATA?

Data tracking is important for us to evaluate the effectiveness of the model. There are two main ways we will track data for this year:

- Tracking fidelity to the one-hour-a-day model with a camp counselor tracker
- Student reading growth based on DIBELs

HOW SHOULD WE TRACK?

We've tried to make it as simple as possible to track data for this first cohort. Each day, simply place an X in the column if you completed at least 15 minutes of that model component. For example, if on a Monday I completed all four components (read-aloud, independent reading, writing, and literacy games) I would put an X in all four columns. See counselor tracker on the following page.

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CAMP NAME	CAMP COUNSELOR NAME
TOTAL NUMBER OF CAMPERS	CAMP LOCATION

[illegible]

INTERACTIVE READ-ALOUDS

SET THE STAGE FOR READING

- Introduce the title of the book- show the title and it's location on the front of the book. "What does the title tell you about the book? What do you think it will be about?"
- Author: The author is the person who writes the story.
- Illustrator: The illustrator is the person who draws the pictures that accompany the story.
- Fiction vs. Non-Fiction: Help students to identify whether or not this text is fiction or non-fiction.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING READ ALOUDS:

- Describe the characters: What do they look like? What are they wearing?
- Describe the setting: Where does the story take place?
- What do you think will happen next? What clues make you think that?
- What do the character's actions tell you about him or her?
- Who is telling the story? What clues help you figure this out? (Narrator or character)
- What does the word _____ mean? Why do you think so?
- If _____ happened, how might the ending have been different?
- If you could ask this character a question, what would it be?
- Why do you think the author wrote this story? What do you think the author wants you to think/remember?

A Ask Questions

B Build Vocabulary

C Connect to Their World

READ-ALoud HIGH 5'S

5 BEFORE

- Read the book ahead of time.
 - Fiction: characters, setting, problem-solution, main events
 - Non-fiction: how information is organized, most important ideas
- Is there any background information listeners need to make sense of?
Ask a question or two to see what campers know.
- Connect with campers: what question(s) will stir thinking to use story ideas and their own ideas?
- Are there any words that need explaining before reading? (Let campers help tell what some words mean during the reading)
- Practice reading it.

5 DURING

- Always say the title, author, and illustrator.
- Read slowly and let the children look at the pictures, asking them how the words on the page and the pictures work together to tell a story.
- Ask them what they notice about the cover.
- Stop and ask a few questions- predictions are always good.
- Engage: did this ever happen to you? What would you do? What does this remind you of?

5 AFTER

- Ask questions that help develop insights, draw conclusions.
- Get student opinions.
- Act it out.
- Write a journal entry.
- Make connections to other books and experiences.

WHAT DOES INDEPENDENT READING LOOK LIKE?

TAKE YOUR TIME

BODY COMFORTABLE AND FOCUSED

DON'T DISTURB
OTHERS

IDENTIFY THE PARTS OF
THE BOOK



CHECK TO MAKE SURE
YOU UNDERSTAND

INDEPENDENT READING

CHOOSE A BOOK THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU!

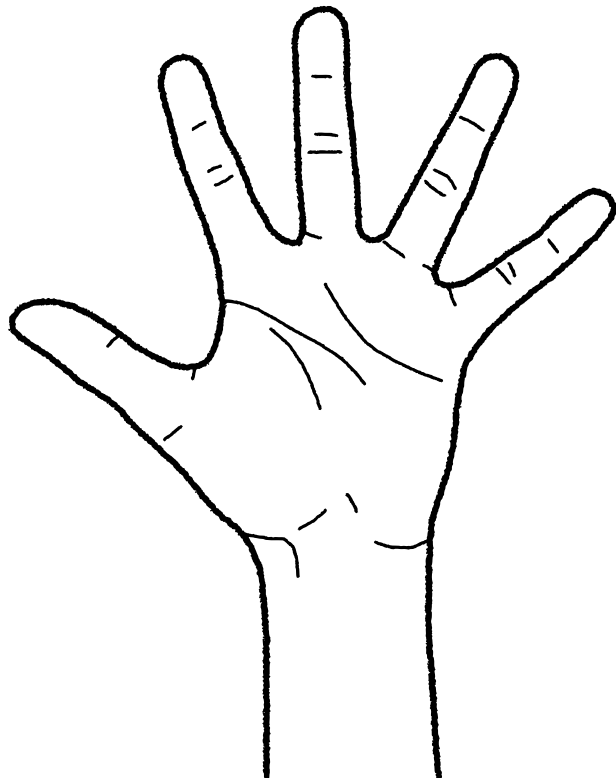
1. Pick a book.
2. Open it in the middle.
3. Read the whole page.
4. Put up one finger for every word that you don't know or can't sound out by yourself.

0-2 Fingers: This book is TOO EASY for me!

3 Fingers: This book is JUST RIGHT for me!

4 Fingers: This book is A CHALLENGE for me!

5+ Fingers: This book is TOO HARD for me right now!



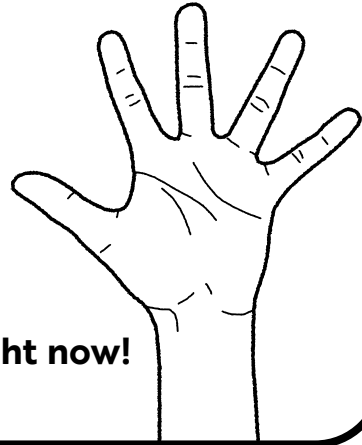
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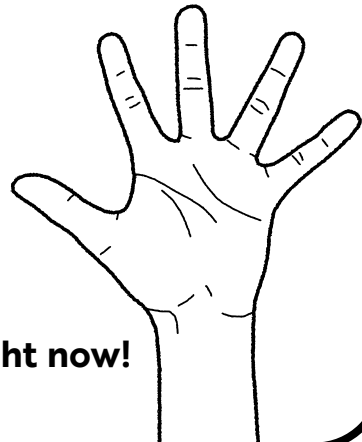
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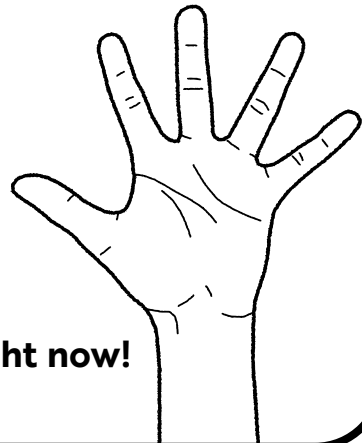
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WAYS TO MIX UP INDEPENDENT READING

PARTNER READING

- Pair up campers in groups of two or three. Allow students to pick their books and read to one another. This is a great way to practice reading fluency. It can also support students who are struggling by pairing them with a stronger reader.

IMAGINARY LOCATION READING

- Draw large rectangles in chalk on the ground outside. Give campers chalk and ask them to spend 10 minutes creating their ideal reading location-- on a beach? on the moon? in a castle? in the jungle? Campers draw their location inside their rectangle and then "travel to their imaginary location" to read for the day inside their rectangle.

FUZZY FRIEND READERS

- Allow campers to bring their favorite stuffed animal to camp for the day (have a few extras in case campers forget). Campers can read-aloud to their fuzzy friends!

FLASHLIGHT FRIDAY

- Find a darker room and turn out the lights. Give students mini flashlights and have students read using their flashlights in the dark!

INDEPENDENT READING CONTEST!

CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Everyday following Independent Reading time, encourage campers to fill out a "My Book Review" card.
2. Campers should put completed "My Book Review" cards into your classroom raffle jar.
3. At the end of every week, pick a card from your raffle jar. The camper that completed the selected card wins a prize! (prizes supplied by Turn the Page STL)
4. After the weekly book review drawing, please count the total number of cards in the raffle jar, this will be the total number of books read by your campers that week.
5. Mark the total number of "My Book Review" cards on your laminated "Our Reading Goal" thermometer.
6. If your classroom reaches their reading goal by the end of summer camp, Turn the Page STL will provide party snacks for your class to celebrate their reading success!

You will set and determine the appropriate benchmark goals for your classroom.

Feel free to add a classroom team name or theme to your "Our Reading Goal" thermometer.

My Book Review



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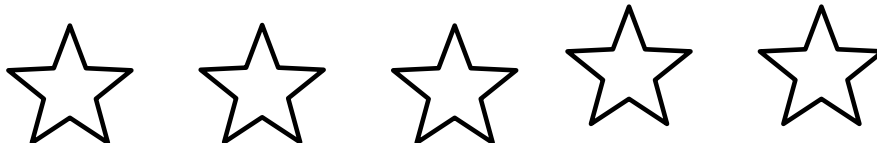
INDEPENDENT READING CONTEST

My Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Book Title _____

Author _____

I give this book:



Would you recommend this book to a friend? Yes or No

What was your favorite part? _____

Turn in for a chance to win a prize!

cut here ✂ - - - - -



My Book Review

My Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Book Title _____

Author _____

I give this book:

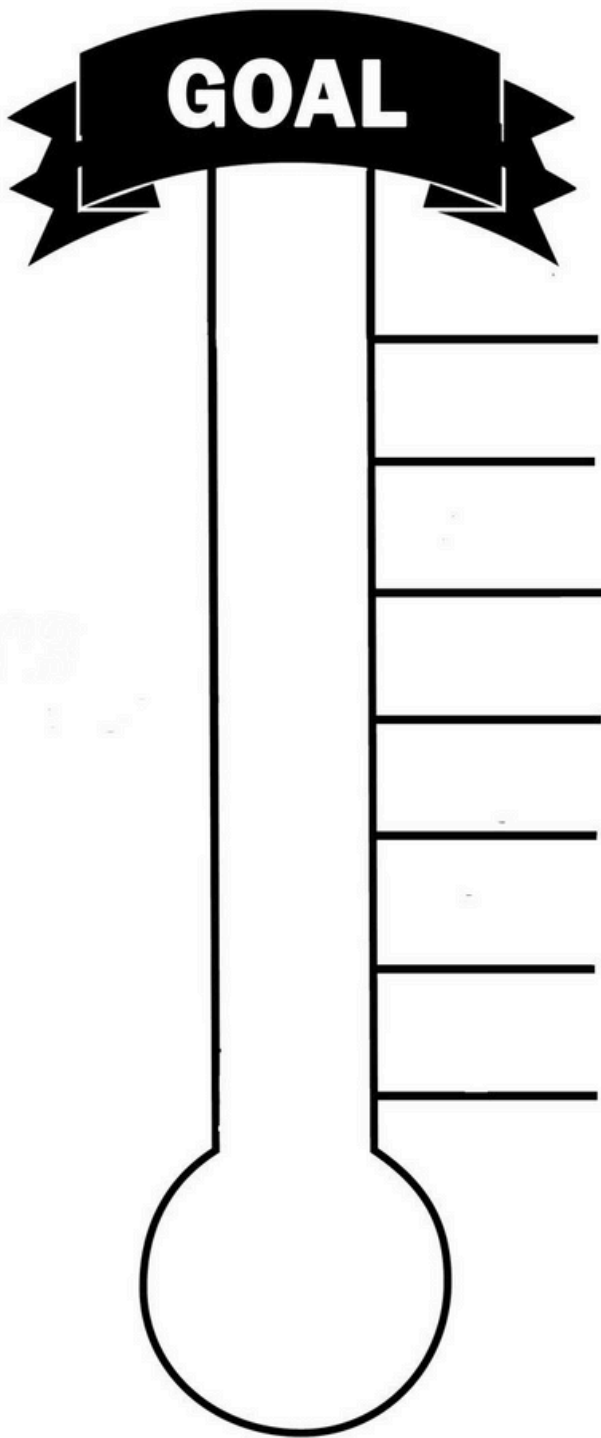


Would you recommend this book to a friend? Yes or No

What was your favorite part? _____

Turn in for a chance to win a prize!

Our Reading Goal!



Classrooms and camp sites will set their own Reading Goal benchmarks

Laminated copy for each classroom and/ or camp site will be provided by Turn the Page STL

WAYS TO MIX UP WRITING ACTIVITIES

QUICK WRITE

A Quick Write is one of the most basic strategies. The Quick Write is a literacy strategy that is designed to give campers the opportunity to reflect upon their learning, thoughts and feelings. This writing assignment can be used at the beginning, middle, or end of an activity and takes only about three to five minutes. Short, open-ended statements are usually given to children like "What was your favorite part of our trip to the zoo?"

Campers are asked to write about what they learned, what they wonder about, what they liked (or did not like), and about what it reminded them of. Read-Aloud and Writing easily go together.

The Quick Write open-ended statements can be recorded in summer journals, or done as a group on chart paper. Be sure to ask your campers their opinions in this easy, non-threatening manner.

For emerging readers and writers, have them draw a picture, and either label the parts or write a sentence about it.

In your materials, give each camper their own journal and have them write their name on it to use for writing activities. At the end of camp, allow the child to take the journal home with them.

WAYS TO MIX UP WRITING ACTIVITIES

WRITING FORMATS: GET CREATIVE!

Advertisements/Billboards

Advice

Announcements

Brochures

Book Jackets

Bumper Stickers

Commercials

Comic Books

Debates

Directions

Family Stories

Fairy Tales

Graffiti Walls

Interview Questions

Journals

Labels

Letters

Lists

Logos

Newspaper Articles

Observations Notes

Opinion

Poems

Postcards

Questionnaires

Recipes

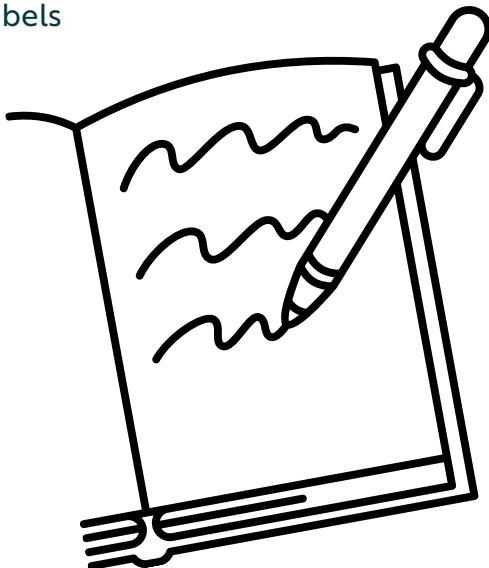
Reminders

Riddles

Rules for a Game

Signs

Words of Wisdom



LITERACY GAMES

All games listed below are included with your classroom literacy kit

AGO Phonics Zero (age 5+)

- A CVC* words card game for practicing and developing reading and decoding skills through play.
- *CVC words are three letter words in Consonant, Vowel, Consonant order

Apples to Apples Junior (9+)

- Players will delight in the crazy comparisons while expanding their vocabulary and thinking skills. A hilarious game of word comparisons.
- 4- 8 players
- Contains 504 cards

BAMbingo (ages 4+)

- Recognize, read and spell 108 high frequency words (Blue level has common PreK & kindergarten level words, Red level has common kindergarten & first grade words)
- Play in a big group or 1-on-1; 2 to 24 players

BAMbingo (ages 5+)

- Master high frequency words (Purple level has common first & second grade level words, Green level has common second & third grade words)
- Play in a big group or 1-on-1; 2 to 24 players

My First BANANAGRAMS (age 4+)

- Contains 3 decks in a magnetic box. 100 phonemes and 300 sight words.
- 1-4 players

Rhyming Words Splat! (grades K- 1)

- Fast-paced game for beginning reading skills! Caller reads each card aloud, players scan cards in front of them. If two cards are matching, the player says "SPLAT!" and flips the cards over. First player to flip over all of their cards wins
- 2- 6 players

Riddle Moo This! (ages 5+)

- Giggle, learn and grow vocabulary with this exciting riddle game!
- Students build vocabulary by identifying words based on a description
- 3 or more players

SCRABBLE SLAM (All Ages/ 8+)

- Race against each other to change the existing four-letter word and get rid of your cards
- 2- 4 players

UpWords (ages 8+)

- Word-Building Game: The higher you stack, the higher you score! Each player starts with 7 letter tiles.
- Students build vocabulary by identifying words based on a description
- Can be played solo or with 2- 4 players

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORTS

STL SUMMER ADVENTURE

Interested in having your group complete our summer reading challenge? Build reading time into your camp day and all of your campers can earn free books. We'll even bring them to your camp!

EDUCATOR ACCOUNTS

St. Louis Public Library offers special library accounts for educators to check out library materials to use with youth. Camp staff qualify too! These accounts include 30 day checkout periods and the ability to borrow up to 100 items per checkout. You also receive a \$5 print/copier credit each month! Apply for an Educator account [here!](https://www.slpl.org/educator-accounts/)

<https://www.slpl.org/educator-accounts/>

BOOK COLLECTIONS

Let us know the topic or types of books you'd like, age range, and the number of titles needed, and staff will put together a custom collection for pick up! Please allow at least 2 weeks to prepare each book collection.

LIBRARY TOURS AND OUTREACH

Interested in a field trip to the library? Group tours are available at most library locations. Or we can bring the library to you with an outreach program!

QUESTIONS?

Contact youthservices@slpl.org for any questions or to request any of the resources above



ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY SUPPORTS

EDUCATOR BUNDLES

You can request books to use in your camps. Just let us know the age ranges, number of titles needed and any specific topics you would like and staff will put together a bundle for you to pick up. Please allow at least two weeks notice. For more information and to request books, please visit <https://www.slcl.org/children-families/educator-parent-resources/educator-bundles>.

LIBRARY TOURS AND OUTREACH

Take your group on a behind the scenes tour of your neighborhood library or schedule a librarian visit to your camp. Visit <https://www.slcl.org/children-families/educator-parent-resources/tour-or-school-visit> and fill out the form to see if we can accommodate your request.

STL SUMMER ADVENTURE

Interested in having your group complete our summer reading challenge? Build reading time into your camp day and all of your campers can earn free books. We'll even bring them to your camp! Email kidzone@slcl.org or contact your closest St. Louis County Library branch to get your group logs.

CONTACT

Please email kidzone@slcl.org with any questions.
www.slcl.org



St. Louis County **Library**

FERGUSON PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORTS

NEED BOOKS FOR THE SUMMER?

To get a collection of library books for your camp, a summer camp needs to be located in Ferguson and register for an institutional library card. Camps located outside of Ferguson are not eligible for institutional library cards from the Ferguson Municipal Public Library.

To get an institutional library card, a designated representative of the camp needs to come to the library with their picture ID, and something official with the camp's name and address (this could be official letterhead, a business license, non-profit designation, etc.). Once you have your card, our children's librarian will work with you to determine what books you need, how long you need them, and more. We can put together a collection of books on specific topics with advance notice.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Depending on staff availability, we can come to you! We can bring a craft or activity to do with your campers. If you are having a parent meeting or other event with families and would like a representative from the library to talk about getting a library card and our services, please let us know.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Ferguson Municipal Public Library will hold their annual Summer Reading Challenge from May 24 until August 2. Camps located in Ferguson are welcome to participate! We can provide you with a small poster that you can use to log your campers' reading over the summer. At the end of camp, we can come with a surprise to help celebrate their success. We will also give you information to share with campers and their families about our individual reading challenge, in case they want to participate at home as well.

CONTACT

Amy Randazzo, Children's Services Librarian
arandazzo@fergusonlibrary.net



UNIVERSITY CITY LIBRARY SUPPORTS

University City Library Summer Camps

Advanced Registration Required.

Call 314-727-3150 or email YouthServices@ucitylibrary.org

Kids in the Kitchen



AGES 6-9: Monday, June 23 to Friday, June 27 from 1-2 p.m.

AGES 10-12: Monday, July 7 to Friday, July 11 from 1-2 p.m.

AGES 13-15: Monday, July 28 to Friday, Aug 1 from 1-2 p.m.

This camp encourages young people to eat healthier meals and snacks as a result of hands-on cooking experiences. Youth participants learn to prepare simple, healthy foods they can make for themselves and their family members. Each lesson includes kid-friendly handouts such as recipes and tips for how to use kitchen equipment safely.

Crayola Imagination Arts Academy



AGES 6-12: Monday, June 9 to Friday, June 13 from Noon - 3 p.m.

Think it! Draw it! Make it! Take a journey to the farthest reaches of the imagination while learning about the rain forest, Hollywood, Mars, and a futuristic city! Use the design thinking process to solve real-world problems in these different environments. Experiment with Crayola® products and a wide variety of art techniques like sculpting, collage, and mixed media. Discover design careers like graphic design, fashion design, and architectural and urban design.

Crash Course: Photography



AGES 13-17: Monday, June 2 to Friday, June 6 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

These classes will cover topics ranging from technical skills like aperture and exposure to composition and editing. Some photography experience will help, but isn't required. All you need is a camera - any kind will do!

DO ART! - Ages 13 to 17



Thursday, July 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Comics

Friday, July 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Acting

Saturday, July 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. - Painting

At the Do Art Productions Comic Book Workshop, in this interactive workshop we will explore the different languages of comics, from the eyes, to body posture, to the actual language within speech bubbles. The Acting workshop, we will learn about the different visual languages we use with our face, emotions, and body posture. From these, we will try different improv scenarios at random, and see how easy it is to 'get into 'character' and tap into our creative expression. In painting workshops, we will all paint together with our own canvases and canvas paper.



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HOME OF THE BEST READERS IN THE WORLD

NINE PBS RESOURCES

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NINE PBS RESOURCES

DRAWN IN

Have you heard about the Nine PBS animated series, *Drawn In*? Set in a bustling Midwestern city just like St. Louis, *Drawn In* follows the adventures of four kids who unabashedly love comic books. In every episode, the real world collides with the comic world as heroes, villains, robots, and other fanciful creatures escape from the comic books' pages. The kids use problem-solving and literacy skills to set their world right again from cartoon mayhem! Check out the *Drawn In* resources including animated video shorts, comic books, and games on <https://drawnin.org>. In your summer literacy kit, each of your campers can read and then take-home comic books to build at-home libraries. *Drawn In* resources, curriculum information and ideas, coloring sheets, and so much more can be found at: <https://www.ninepbs.org/drawnin/>.

PBS KIDS EDUCATOR TOOLKIT

Want to explore other PBS Kids shows and content? Visit <https://www.ninepbs.org/learningtoolkit/>, and download free educational content, games, and learning resources.

TEACHING IN ROOM 9

Check out Nine PBS's award-winning kids' program, Teaching in Room 9! Every weekday, Nine PBS broadcasts lessons from area teachers that help kids meet school readiness needs. With Teaching in Room 9, children get quality instructions in the fundamentals of reading and math, letters and sounds, friends and feelings, art, movement, and science. Watch Monday-Friday, 9:30-10 am on Nine PBS or stream anytime on [ninepbs.org](https://www.ninepbs.org), YouTube, or the PBS App.

Did you know you can watch PBS KIDS ANYTIME for free? Twenty-four hours, seven days a week, enjoy PBS Kids on Nine PBS (9.1), Nine PBS KIDS 24/7 channel (9.2), and the PBS App (on mobile and connected-TV devices), plus Spectrum digital cable and streaming on DirecTV Stream and YouTube TV.



MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

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MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

SUMMER FAMILY FUN SERIES

theSAIGHfoundation

GREAT SOUTHERN BANK

Rudolph and Mary Frances Wise Endowment Fund



Learn more at mohistory.org/summer-family-fun

Did You Know?

Summer camp groups can participate in the Summer Family Fun Series on Wednesdays at no cost. Please make a group reservation by emailing reserv@mohistory.org or calling (314) 361-9017 at least two weeks in advance of the event date.



Head to the Missouri History Museum on Wednesdays and Fridays every week in June and July for summer fun. Enjoy a variety of family activities, including crafts, performances, and scavenger hunts on Wednesdays, and then visit us again on Fridays for Storytelling in the Museum and *Cuentos en el Museo* programs at 10:30am, followed by a craft. The Summer Family Fun Series is great for children ages 2–12!

June and July 2025

Wednesdays—10am–1pm

Fridays—Storytelling: 10:30am–11:00am

Craft Workshop: 11am–12pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4 | Caribbean and Latin American STL

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 | Storytelling in the Museum: Soul Food Summer with ASL interpretation by DEAF Inc.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11 | Transportation: Things That Go!

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 | Storytelling in the Museum: Caribbean American Heritage Month

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18 | Black Freedom Celebration

FRIDAY, JUNE 20 | Storytelling in the Museum: Juneteenth

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 | 10th History Clubhouse Birthday

FRIDAY, JUNE 27 | *Cuentos en el Museo: Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ / LGBTQ Pride Month*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2 | No Program

FRIDAY, JULY 4 | No Program

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 | South Asian STL

FRIDAY, JULY 11 | Storytelling in the Museum: Summer

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 | Growing Up in St. Louis

FRIDAY, JULY 18 | Storytelling in the Museum: My Collection

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23 | German American STL

FRIDAY, JULY 25 | *Cuentos en el Museo: Dulces / Sweet Treats*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 | Family History



MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Forest Park • St. Louis • 314.746.4599 • mohistory.org



**Please contact Kristine Loomis with
questions and for additional support**

Kristine.loomis@turnthepagestl.org

#stlreads

www.turnthepagestl.org



**Turn
The Page**
STL

"We truly love and appreciate this program! We look forward to connecting next summer!!"
-Summer Camp Director

"Parents loved the program and I enjoy it myself. Campers really loved Free Book Fridays. I love to be able to add to their own personal library at home."
-Summer Camp Director

"The summer literacy kit came with everything that was needed. The kits were fun and engaging to keep the kids interested in literacy."
-Summer Camp Staff Member

#stlreads.

2025 Summer Literacy Report