Summer Learning Loss

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIAN
SUMMER SUMMIT

JULY 18, 2013
Time spent in school...

10 year-old child

5,850 hrs

87,600 hours
Over the summer, middle- and upper-income children’s skills continue to improve, while lower-income children’s skills deteriorate.
Idaho Reading Indicator

2009 - 2012
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Did you know?

Studies have shown that children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gain more in reading achievement than children who did not.

Making the Case for Library Services to Children and Teens, State Library of North Carolina
Did you know?

61% percent of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children.

Did you know?

The use of the public library during the summer is more predictive of vocabulary gains than attending summer school.

Making the Case for Library Services to Children and Teens, State Library of North Carolina
Importance of self-selection

- Free, voluntary reading is essential to helping students become better readers, writers, and spellers.
- Students read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests.
- It is important that students read things that are important to them socially--items related to movies and books that are popular with their friends.
- Self-selection of reading materials is an extremely important factor in motivating struggling readers, and is a key component for most summer library programs.

Summer Reading

Dig Into READING

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Over 47,000 children ages 0-18 participated in summer programs at their public library.

An additional 37,000 children ages 0-18 were reached by libraries distributing reading logs and books to children through outreach programs.

Over 84,000 children total, which was a 17% increase from 2011.

Approximately 419,000 children ages 0-18 living in Idaho.

20%
It takes a village to raise a reader.
Partnering with your public library

- Membership
- Themes and Slogans
- Artwork
- Merchandise
- Resources
- Rules of Use
Partnering with your public library

- Catalog for schools
- Copyrighted artwork
- ICfL-sponsored outreach programs
- Free summer library programs
Promoting participation in SRPs

- Public Library visits
- School Library
- School-wide: Principal, teachers, staff, parents

Ways School Libraries Can Support Summer Reading Programs

At young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer (White, 1960; Hedges, 1978; Blaustein & Alexander, 1982; Cooper, 1986; Ginsberg, et al., 1995).

Idaho public libraries are members of the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), a partner of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading programs for kids ages 5-18. Most Idaho libraries choose to use the annual theme, slogan, and materials chosen by the CSLP (www.cslp.org). School libraries that partner with their public libraries may have access to special programs and/or materials through partnerships and outreach opportunities. Contact your public library for more information.

The 2013 theme is "Underground".

The children’s slogan is: Dig into Reading
The teen slogan is: Beneath the Surface

As a school librarian, you can support summer reading programs and help keep your students reading over the summer.

Highlighted ideas are specific to the 2013 theme:

Working with your public library:
- The public library can share the Cooperative Summer Library Program (CSLP) programming manual, office artwork, and materials for summer reading. Meet with your local public librarian to discuss the local ways to work together to support the summer reading program at the public library.
- Contact your local public library and/or public library system to obtain an order form to purchase CSLP 2013 summer reading promotional materials.
- Invite your public librarian for a school visit.
- Help arrange class visits to the local public library.
- Work with the local public library to teach students how to check out books from the public library (if available) and/or how to access Tumblebooks™ from their library’s website.
- Volunteer to offer a program during the summer at the public library that highlights your expertise. This could be a book discussion group, information on the Common Core standards, or a program to link the summer with the school year ahead.
- Work with your public librarian to see if there is a possibility that books read in the last week or two of school can count toward summer reading goals.

In the school library:
- Post announcements on computer screen savers.
- Put bookmarks in the books as students check out.
- Plan fall follow-up recognition for those who participated in the public library summer reading program.
- Begin lessons in your school library with the slogans "Dig into Reading" and "Beneath the Surface."
Access to books and print materials

- TumbleBooks™ and e-lending
- Spring Book Fairs and other book giveaway programs
- School Library summer access
- Bookmobiles and Little Free Libraries
- Adult interaction
My first question when I am asked about addressing the summer reading problem is this: Does your school ensure that every child has taken at least 10 books out from the school library on the final day of school?

There is nothing more problematic, for me, than kids with no books to read and schools with libraries filled with books that no one will read over the summer. So my advice always begins with “Empty out your school library before the final day of school.”
Summer learning shortfall experienced by low-income children over the elementary grades has consequences that reverberate throughout children’s schooling, and can impact whether a child ultimately earns a high school diploma and continues on to college.