Time Spent In and Out of School:
Average 10-year-old child

87,600 hours

FACTS:

- The vast majority of a child’s life is spent outside of school.
- Kids who only read in school will rarely be great readers. The time spent in school is usually enough time to learn to read, but not nearly enough time for most kids to become proficient at reading.
- 61% of low-income families (nationally) have no children’s books in their home.¹
- The availability of reading material in the home, whether owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children’s achievement in reading comprehension.²
- Idaho Reading Indicator scores in 2011 show that 19% of children entering Kindergarten do not recognize three or more letters of the alphabet. Another 24.5% recognize fewer than 11 letters.³
- 80% of preschool and after-school programs serving low-income populations have no age-appropriate books for their children.⁴
- Children who are read to at least three times a week by a family member are almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading compared to children who were read to less than three times a week.⁵
- The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print.⁶

* Time spent in school includes all-day kindergarten through fourth grade. Based on 180 days a year at 6 ½ hours per day for a total of 5,850 hours.

¹ Idaho Commission for Libraries, April, 2013
MORE FACTS:

- Kids say that they would spend more time reading for fun if they had greater access to books.7
  - It is clear that letting kids choose which books they want to read is key to raising a reader. Nine out of 10 children say they are more likely to finish books they choose themselves. Parents also recognize the power of choice — nearly 9 out of 10 parents say, “As long as my child is reading, I just want my child to read books he/she likes.”
  - From age 6 through age 17, the time kids spend reading declines while the time kids spend going online for fun and using a cell phone to text or talk increases.

- Students who are not reading at grade level by the end of first grade have a 1 in 8 chance of ever catching up to grade level without extraordinary and costly interventions.8

SOURCES:
“Time spent in and out of school” timeline from Gary Johnston, http://kidstoreaders.com

1National First Book, www.firstbook.org
2National Center for Education Statistics, 2001
3Idaho State Department of Education, 2011
7Kids and Family Reading Report, Scholastic, 2010.

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