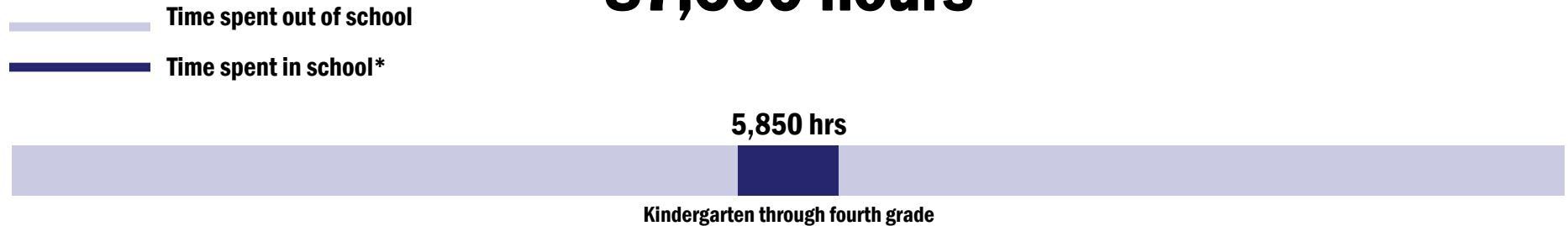


# Time Spent In and Out of School: Average 10-year-old child

**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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>2</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>
- 80% of preschool and after-school programs serving low-income populations have no age-appropriate books for their children.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.<sup>5</sup>
- The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print.<sup>6</sup>
- More facts... →

\* 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.

## **MORE FACTS:**

- **Kids say that they would spend more time reading for fun if they had greater access to books.<sup>7</sup>**
  - **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.<sup>8</sup>**

## **SOURCES:**

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

<sup>1</sup>National First Book, [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org)

<sup>2</sup>National Center for Education Statistics, 2001

<sup>3</sup>Idaho State Department of Education, 2011

<sup>4</sup>Neuman, Susan B., et al. “Access for All: Closing the Book Gap for Children in Early Education.” Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 2001, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup>Denton, Kristen and Gerry West, “Children's Reading and Mathematics Achievement in Kindergarten and First Grade.” U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Washington, DC, 2002.

<sup>6</sup>Newman, Sanford, et al. “Americans Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy”; Fight Crime; Invest in Kids, 2000

<sup>7</sup>Kids and Family Reading Report, Scholastic, 2010.

<sup>8</sup>Juel, C. Learning to Read and Write in One Elementary School, 1994. Learning to read and write: A longitudinal study of 54 children from first through fourth grades. *Journal of Educational Psychology* 80 (4), pp 437-447, 1988.

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