**Summer Camp Literacy Infusion Overview**

**The Need**

During the summer months, students often lose 2-3 months of reading skills they’ve gained during the school year. This learning loss – known as the summer slide – can be a major reason why children read below grade level as they get older. By ninth grade, at least half of the achievement gap can be attributed to summer learning loss in the elementary school years.

**Background Information**

In December 2016, Read Charlotte staff visited with their sister organization in Philadelphia, Read By 4, and learned about a program called the Philadelphia Out Of School Time Literacy Initiative (POSTLI). For almost two decades, POSTLI has operated a model to integrate literacy into after school and summer programs. The YMCA of Greater Charlotte was identified as the agency that would lead the overall project administration for the pilot years. The infusion model operated at three sites in 2017 and 12 sites in 2018. Resources and learnings are now being shared with agencies that are interested in adoption. To date, four agencies in Mecklenburg County have integrated infusion practices into at least one of their summer camps: YMCA, CMS ASEP, Discovery Place, and Park & Rec.

**Infusion Model Components**

Based on the learnings from the pilot, the following components are recommended as the “fidelity” model. However, it is important to note that some of the camps who participated in the pilot were only able to implement some of the activities due to their camp structure. With an acknowledgement that camps may not be able to implement all components, we suggest that implementing even one or two components will be beneficial for campers.

Student activities:

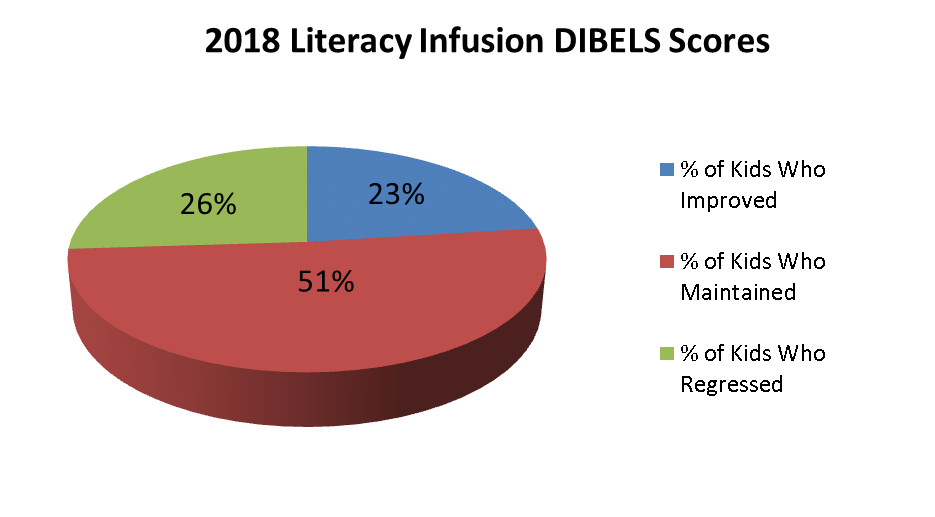
* 20 mins of read aloud using Active Reading strategies
* 20 mins of independent/choice reading
* 20 mins of word games or writing

Family activities:

* Offer one family workshop focused on Active Reading strategies
* Encourage reading at home, including daily book check out and weekly reading logs

**Pilot Year Results**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total K-3 Kids Enrolled in Camp** | **# of Kids Who Attended**  **1-2 Weeks** | **# of Kids Who Attended**  **3-5 Weeks** | **# of Kids Who Attended**  **6-9 Weeks** | **# of Parents Who Attended AR Workshop** | **# of Kids Who Returned at Least One Reading Log** | **# of Kids With Pre and Post Test** |
| **Totals** | 680 | 225  38% | 195  33% | 171  29% | 46 | 217  32% | 252  37% |

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