

# SUMMER READS 2015

Over **9** weeks, **58** VISTA members provided tutoring and literacy enrichment programming to **2,094** children in grades K-3 at **42** schools, libraries and community organizations in **15** cities/communities in Minnesota.

## ACADEMIC GROWTH

**OUTCOME:** Children will maintain or make gains in literacy skills over the summer.

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

**78%** of **670** children maintained or increased their words-per-minute scores. The average change in score was **7.36** words per minute. The average increase was **14.21** words per minute.

**85%** of **655** children maintained or increased their sight word mastery. The average change in score was **2.34** words. The average increase was **5.52** words.

**83%** of **646** children maintained or increased a positive attitude toward reading.

### EVALUATION METHODS:

VISTA members were trained to administer reading fluency (words-per-minute) and sight word recognition tests and interviews to assess reading attitudes at the beginning and end of programming.

## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

**OUTCOME:** Youth-serving programs will increase their capacity to serve children over the summer.

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

**100%** of **38** sites reported an increase in learning time and literacy-focused programming as a result of Summer Reads VISTA members.

**100%** of **38** sites reported a more positive learning and behavioral environment as a result of Summer Reads VISTA members.

**97%** of **38** sites reported an increase in individualized attention to children and improved adult: child ratios as a result of Summer Reads VISTA members.

### EVALUATION METHODS:

Teacher and supervisor surveys reported the positive impact on classrooms, programs and organizations.

## EMERGING LEADERSHIP

**OUTCOME:** VISTA members will grow in their leadership and professional development.

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

**91%** of **52** VISTA members reported they were given opportunities to take on leadership roles within their programs or classrooms.

**90%** of **52** VISTA members stated that training and support offered by the literacy council helped them to be more effective in their service.

**98%** of **52** VISTA members expressed that Summer Reads helped them grow personally and/or professionally.

### EVALUATION METHODS:

VISTA surveys reported their experience and leadership opportunities in Summer Reads.



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“This week I was reading a chapter book with a student... He said the boy in the story didn't want to read a book for his book report. Then he said the boy was just like he used to be. **He used to not like to read and books took too long. Now he likes to read and can't put books down just like the boy in the book.**”

~Becca, VISTA member

“Many of the students the VISTAs served this summer were East African students - whose parents immigrated to the US as war refugees. **The students couldn't go to their parents for help with reading because their parents themselves struggled with reading. The VISTAs were able to take these students in and tutor them so that they could be more successful and prepared for the school year.** They not only taught the students reading skills but gave them the attention and warmth that they desired. Additionally, the free books made kids excited about reading! They were eager to bring their books home and share it with their families.”

~Jackie, Site supervisor

“I am so proud of all of our kids, and I will miss them very much! I am so glad I had the opportunity to know and work with them, as well as our site supervisors and my VISTA partner. Their advice, sympathy and support were much appreciated. **These past eight weeks, I've grown as an individual - I'm more confident, more knowledgeable, and more assertive. Thank you Summer Reads!**”

~Alyssa, VISTA member



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“Thank you for the opportunity to host Summer Reads VISTAs this year. **This bridges a time-gap and allows us to establish year-round literacy programming for the children we serve.**”

~Dave, Site supervisor