



Oregon State Library

## Summer Reading Brief 2011

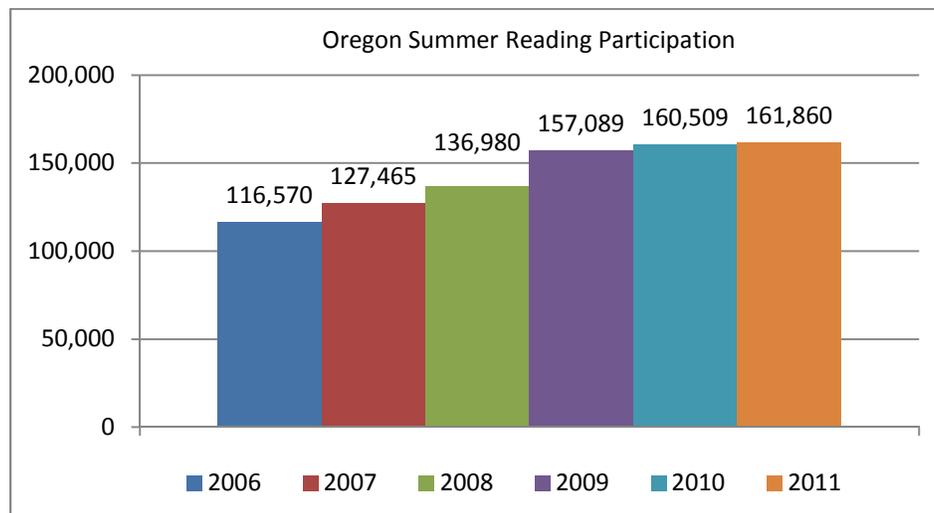
"About two-thirds of the ninth-grade academic achievement gap between disadvantaged youngsters and their more advantaged peers can be explained by what happens over the summer during the elementary school years."

Alexander, K.L. (2009). *Summer Can Set Kids on the Right—or Wrong—Course* (Research in Brief). Retrieved from National Summer Learning Association.

Oregon public libraries provide free voluntary reading programs, activities that link stories to real-world experiences, and special performances to engage and motivate young readers. Librarians help children and teens select reading materials that match their reading ability and, most importantly, their personal interests. In many communities, librarians partner with local organizations that support disadvantaged families to bring summer reading to the young people who may not be able to get to the library or other enrichment programs when school is not in session.

During the 2011 summer reading program Oregon public libraries reported:

- 161,860 children and teens participated in the summer reading program.
- 60,097 children and teens reached their reading goals and finished the summer reading program.
- 192,342 people attended 3,905 summer reading activities and events.
- Children and teens read for 367,919 hours at libraries that tracked time spent reading.
- Children and teens read 165,039 books at libraries that tracked number of books read.
- Children and teens read 678,493 pages at libraries that tracked number of pages read.



## Summer Reading Research Indicates...

**...the higher performing group isn't necessarily high income, but simply better off. For example, better-off children were more likely to go to the library over the summertime and take books home... Overall, they had a more expansive realm of experiences.**

Alexander, K.L. (2009). *Summer Can Set Kids on the Right—or Wrong—Course* (Research in Brief). Retrieved from National Summer Learning Association <http://www.summerlearning.org/>

### The ABCs of Improved Reading:

- **Access to books.**
- **Books that match readers' ability levels and interests. For young people's reading skills to improve, they need to read books that align with their own reading levels.**
- **Comprehension, as monitored and guided by an adult. The most important piece to making summer reading effective is the help of an adult who can ask questions and guide kids to better understand what they are reading.**

Kim, J. S. (2009). *How to Make Summer Reading Effective* (Research In Brief). Retrieved from National Summer Learning Association <http://www.summerlearning.org/>

**Free voluntary reading is as effective, or more effective, than direct instruction... In fact, young people who read have better comprehension, research tells us, and they write better, spell better, improve their grammar, and increase their vocabulary.**

Krashen, S. (1989). "We acquire vocabulary and spelling by reading: Additional evidence for the Input Hypothesis." *Modern Language Journal* 73: 440-464.

**There's also evidence that [free voluntary reading] FVR benefits English-language learners as well. In three studies of 3,000 children, ages six through nine, children following a program that combined shared book experience, language experience, and free reading outperformed traditionally taught students on tests of reading comprehension, vocabulary, oral language, grammar, listening, and writing**

Elley, W., and F. Mangubhai, 1983. The impact of reading on second language learning. *Reading Research Quarterly* 19: 53-67.

*[This summer] 1,549 kids and 532 teens signed up for the summer reading program at our library this summer. That represented a 9% increase over the number of sign-ups in 2010, and a 30% increase in sign-ups from 2009. We had an even bigger increase in the number of finishers. This year, 730 kids and 226 teens finished our summer reading program, creating a 19% increase in finishers over last year.*

*Attendance at our summer programs increased, as well. 1,631 people attended summer reading programs at our library this summer, not including the additional 1,414 people who attended summer story times. As such, the summer program attendance increased 16% over 2010. All of these increases are no doubt attributable to the increased publicity funded by the grant.*

*The Oregon Battle of the Books titles have also proved beneficial, as more schools seem to be participating this year. We've seen a significant increase in requests for these titles in the first few months of this school year, so we are thankful [for the Ready to Read Grant to be able to] have multiple copies available for check out.*

*-Jana Hoffman*

*Milwaukie Ledding Library*