



Oregon State Library

## Summer Reading Brief 2010

"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."

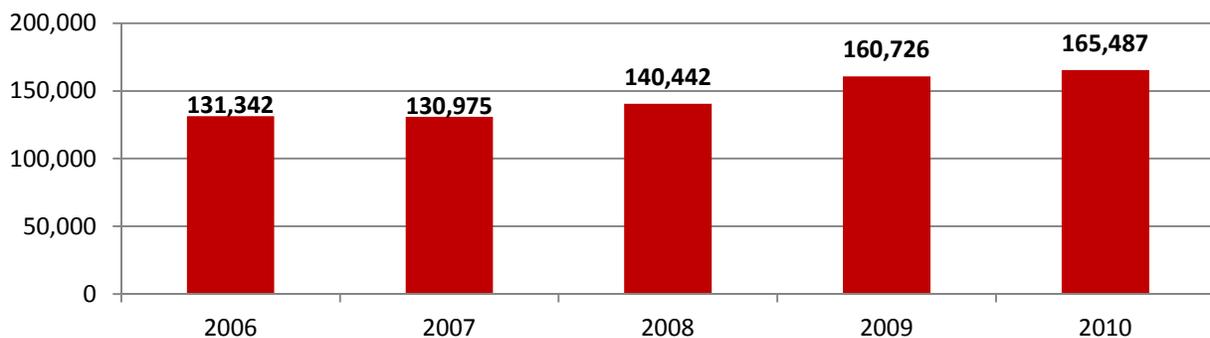
Alexander, K.L. (2009). *Summer Can Set Kids on the Right—or Wrong—Course* (Research in Brief). Retrieved from National Summer Learning Association

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 2010 summer reading program Oregon public libraries reported:

- 165,487 children and teens participated in the summer reading program.
- 59,516 children and teens reached their reading goals and finished the summer reading program.
- 163,660 people attended 3,763 summer reading activities and events.
- Children and teens read for 467,503 hours at libraries that track time spent reading.
- Children and teens read 150,836 books at libraries that tracked number of books read.
- Children and teens read 1,629,328 pages at libraries that tracked number of pages read.

### Number of children participating in the Summer Reading Program



## 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.

*"After looking at [summer reading] participation and completion numbers from the previous year, I knew that we needed to improve both numbers. This was my first summer reading program (SRP) here at Stayton so I wasn't sure what to expect. Our modest goal was to have a 3% increase in finishers... To reach our goal 20% of the kids should finish.*

*We had 315 kids ages 0-14 sign up and 215 finish, 68% [completion rate]! How exciting to reach our goal times three!*

*I attribute much of the success to promotion at the schools, but to make this work everyone here at the library had to be on board. The staff wore SRP shirts, talked to friends, brought their grandkids, and were very positive and excited about the changes to the program... We look forward to even bigger numbers next year."*

--Casle Portner  
Children's Librarian  
Stayton Public Library