

Summer Reading Makes a Difference for Colorado Families



Each year, Colorado public libraries offer engaging summer reading programs to encourage children and teens to read for fun and to prevent summer learning loss. In summer 2014, the Colorado State Library invited Colorado public libraries to ask parents in their communities to help evaluate the effectiveness of these programs by completing a survey. Sixteen libraries chose to participate, and 672 parents/caregivers completed the survey. About half of all respondents reported that their children's enjoyment of reading, reading skills, and reading by choice increased after participating in summer reading. **These outcomes were even more prevalent among families participating in summer reading for the first time and parents of children ages 4-6.** Here we break down these numbers and share in parents' own words the difference summer reading made for their families.

My child's enjoyment of reading increased



"Without a doubt this program provided a valuable and measurable motivation to read more and on a regular basis this summer. My son declared that he had learned how fun reading is. Thank you!"

Families participating in summer reading for the first time	61%
Parents of children ages 4-6	59%
All survey respondents	49%

My child's reading skills increased

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"As a first time parent it's really helpful to have tangible ideas about ways to get my child engaged in early literacy skills. There were some recommended activities I hadn't thought of trying!"



My child's reading by choice increased



"My son's reading endurance has really grown this summer, thanks to the reading program. He was very motivated to read for 40 minutes and sometimes he read for even longer stretches. We will definitely participate again next year!"

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Parents were asked to tell us in their own words the difference the summer reading program made for their children and family:

I loved being able to spend time with my child and bond over my love for books.

As a parent it is so nice to show the children that it is not just at home that reading is fun and important... EVERYONE at the library thinks reading is fun and worth rewarding....my kids love to read...I know I am a big part of this, but **the library helps to reinforce the idea that reading is fun....**THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have been a part of the reading program every year and will be back again next year!

An increased appreciation for the BOOK in this era of electronic over-stimulation. A marked increase in reading ability and appreciation. Expanded vocabulary. **An increase in awareness about the world that is available through books.**

We started going as a "keep busy" thing and ended up being a "we love our library thing." **Not only for literacy but a way to get to know people from the community.** My children are sad that the summer program is almost over, but we will continue to come every week.

