

# SUMMER READS 2014

Over **8** weeks, **74** VISTA members provided tutoring and literacy enrichment programming to **3,932** children in grades K-3 at **55** schools, libraries and community organizations in **17** cities/communities in Minnesota.

## ACADEMIC GROWTH

### OUTCOME:

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

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

**80%** of **801** children maintained or increased their words-per-minute scores. The average increase was **7.34** words per minute.

**93%** of **827** children maintained or increased their sight word mastery. The average increase was **3.5** words.

**91%** of **851** 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 testing 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 sites reported an increase in learning time and literacy-focused programming as a result of Summer Reads VISTA members.

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

**100%** of 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:

**96%** of VISTA members reported they were given opportunities to take on leadership roles within their programs or classrooms.

**95%** of VISTA members reported their supervisor and/or classroom teacher provided feedback and support to help them fulfill their responsibilities.

**85%** of VISTA members who worked on an additional capstone research project reported the project enhanced their personal and/or professional growth.

### EVALUATION METHODS:

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



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**“It would have been impossible to have the level of individualized and purposeful literacy activities this summer without the VISTAs.**

Furthermore, our staff and tutors learned literacy strategies and techniques that they wouldn't have had access to without the VISTAs.”

~Mari Jo, Site supervisor

**“We've also been talking a lot about how your brain connects neurons when you learn. I explained this to one girl while she was working on something difficult. I walked back later and she was doing a lot better. I asked her how much her brain was growing and she goes, ‘It's like 900 times bigger now!’”**

~Zara, VISTA member

**“After completing assessments on almost all of the children in camp, I was able to see how much work some of them still need in order to catch up to the skill level of their same-grade peers. This program allows them to continue building critical academic and social/emotional skills in an environment geared toward making learning fun for all ages involved.”**

~Emily, VISTA member



**mnliteracy.org**

700 Raymond Ave, Suite 180  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114

**“Not many of our kids are encouraged to read at home— especially in the summer. This program gave our kids the opportunity to be exposed to the magical world of reading.”**

~Jackie, Site supervisor