



SUMMER LITERACY INFUSION (SLI)

WHITE PAGES 2022-2023

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



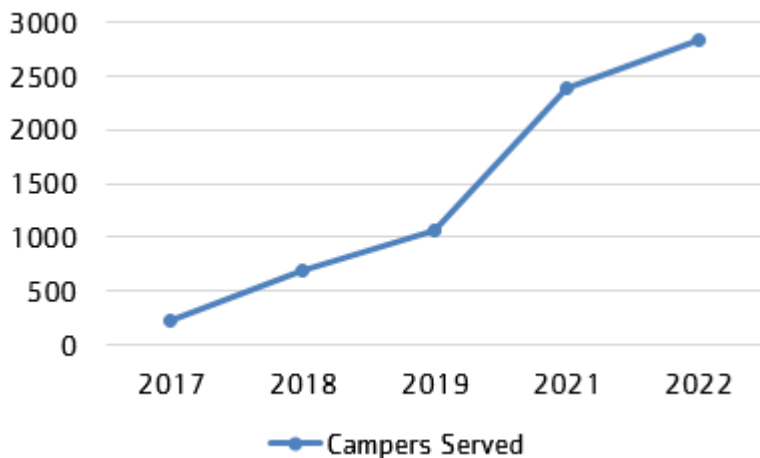
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Summer Literacy Infusion (SLI) is designed to prevent summer learning loss by providing opportunities for students to practice literacy skills at camp, build home libraries, and develop an enjoyment of reading. Literacy activities are integrated into traditional summer camp programming 4-5 days per week for 60 minutes per day. Certified teachers serve as literacy coaches to plan and facilitate activities, as well as to support camp staff in implementation of literacy practices. SLI is designed to fit within a variety of camps operating half or full day.

ORIGIN & HISTORY

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte has been working in partnership with Read Charlotte to embed literacy practices in summer camps across Charlotte-Mecklenburg since 2017. Through a Read Charlotte Transformation Fund grant, the YMCA piloted integration of literacy activities into summer camps in 2017 and 2018. The original model was based on the Philadelphia Out of School Time Literacy Initiative (POSTLI), which successfully operated in Philadelphia for nearly two decades. The Y made adaptations to the POSTLI model to fit within local summer camps. Out-of-school time agencies that participated in the initial local pilot included the Y, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, Discovery Place, and CMS ASEP.

The Y has continued to scale SLI to reach more campers across the greater Charlotte area. The Y implements SLI within our own traditional day camps and also provides training, materials, and coaching to other agencies in order to help them implement SLI in their camps. SLI has grown from serving 214 campers at 3 locations in 2017 to 2,828 campers at 38 locations in 2022. To date, the summer literacy infusion model has collectively engaged **7,187** campers in literacy learning during the summer months.



PARTNER AGENCIES

- Alliance Center for Education
- CMS After School Enrichment Program
- CrossRoads Corporation
- Firm Foundations Youth and Family Outreach
- First Baptist Weekday Ministry
- Greater Enrichment Program
- LeaderByNature
- Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation
- Park Road Baptist Church
- Prodigal Son Foundation
- Project 658
- Smart Kids STREAM Academy
- St. John's Baptist Church
- UMBA Bright Stars

Y BRANCHES

- Harris YMCA
- Hemby Program Center
- Johnston YMCA
- Keith YMCA
- Lake Norman YMCA
- Lincoln County YMCA
- Lowe's YMCA
- McCrorey YMCA
- Morrison YMCA
- Sally's YMCA
- Simmons YMCA
- Steele Creek YMCA
- Stratford Richardson YMCA

CONTACTS

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CAMPS

SLI has been intentionally designed to fit within a variety of camp programs, but there are some important camp features that support success of the model:

- Half-day or full day camp (60 minutes of literacy activities must fit within program hours)
- Camp operates 4 or more weeks
- Ability to collect data
- System of communication with parents/caregivers

Local agencies currently implementing SLI in the greater Charlotte area include churches, day care centers, park & recreation sites, and non-profit agencies.

Camps are selected to participate through an application process each year. Returning camps are selected in February, and new camps are selected in March. It is our intent to retain camps and add additional camps each year.

CAMPERS

The local SLI model was originally designed for campers in grades K-3 in order to support community-wide efforts to increase the number of third graders reaching reading proficiency. However, the model can be expanded to include pre-K and upper elementary students based on camp enrollment. Modifications to materials and activities are necessary for both older and younger campers.

STAFFING MODEL

SLI activities have been selected to allow a wide range of staff and volunteers to implement with training and coaching. While SLI does not need to be facilitated by a certified teacher, the Y employs teachers in two roles to support strong implementation.

The Y invests in teachers to serve as literacy instructors at each of our 13 branches. These literacy instructors are responsible for planning and leading literacy activities directly with the campers. Our Y camp counselors play a supporting role to work 1:1 or with small groups of campers.

Each community camp partner is responsible for hiring their own staff team, but the Y provides teachers to support fidelity of SLI implementation. We hire literacy coaches at a 1:8 (coach to camp) ratio to train and support staff teams at each camp throughout the summer.

COMPONENTS

CAMPER ACTIVITIES

Read aloud
Writing
Independent reading
Literacy games

FAMILY RESOURCES

Promote and incentive reading at home
Provide books and literacy supplies at
Book-a-Palooza events (free book fairs)

AGENCY SUPPORT

Materials
Stipends to cover related staff expenses and additional materials
Training and ongoing coaching

SUMMER LEARNING

The lack of equitable access to academic and enrichment opportunities during summer means that many children experience learning loss in reading and math. The compounded effect of “summer slide” over multiple summers makes it harder for kids to ever catch up and exacerbates disparities between subgroups of students. By ninth grade, two-thirds of the achievement gap in reading can be attributed to what happens during the summer.

The continued effects of the pandemic and two disrupted school years highlight the importance of increasing access to literacy activities and books during the summer months.

ACCESS TO BOOKS

Many youth in our community live in areas known as “book deserts,” where individuals lack access to age-appropriate books. Nationally, these book deserts disproportionately affect children of color living in poverty. This lack of access is detrimental for struggling readers because they are unable to practice critical reading skills outside of the school day.

The Y hosts an annual book drive each year to collect new and gently used books. We then partner with Promising Pages to prepare the books for distribution. Campers receive both “upcycled” books from Promising Pages, as well as new books from Scholastic.

When building home libraries, we focus on choice and diversity. We want campers to select books that they are motivated to read, and we also want to ensure they can see themselves represented in books.

EVALUATION

Campers in rising grades K-5 are evaluated using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) at the beginning of camp, and students who are still in attendance at the end of camp are given a post assessment to measure change in reading skills. We also track home reading to measure family engagement, and feedback is collected from staff, parents, and camp directors to inform program improvement and innovation.

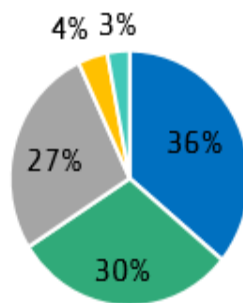
Although evaluation is critical to our SLI work, it is important to note the limitations of data we are able to collect during the summer. There is a great deal of transiency in camp attendance, which impacts the sample size of campers who complete both a pre and post assessment. During summer 2022, the reportable group for Y camps was 289 students (15%) and the reportable group for community partner camps was 341 students (38%), making a combined sample size of 630 students (22%). Due to this limited sample size, we are unable to assume that outcomes apply to the broader group of camp participants. Beginning in summer 2023, we will also begin to report with consideration for dosage.

Please see our annual impact report for information about the program's outcomes. The report can be found online at ymcacharlotte.org.

PROGRAM COSTS & FUNDING

The SLI budget is developed each year based on projected service numbers for the calendar year. The projected cost to operate the SLI model across Charlotte-Mecklenburg in 2023 is \$385,000. This includes \$202,000 to support Y camps and \$183,000 to support community partner camps. The Y invests approximately **\$9,400 per camp** (41 camps) or **\$128 per camper** (3,000 campers) As shown in the chart below, part-time staff account for approximately one-third of the program cost due to our continued commitment to employ certified teachers. In addition to using funds for student materials and family resources, we also allocate direct funding to community partner agencies to build their capacity and help offset operational costs incurred through participation in the model.

SLI Expenses



Summer Staff

16 Literacy Instructors
5 Literacy Coaches

- Full-Time Staff
- Part-Time Staff
- Materials & Family Resources
- Partner Agency Stipends
- Evaluation, Mileage, Misc.

The Y is able to offer the SLI model at no cost to camps and families thanks to the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations who contribute to the YMCA Annual Campaign. To learn more about funding sources and explore opportunities to support SLI, please visit www.ymcacharlotte.org/give.

PARTNERSHIPS

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library

The CM Library provides active reading training to our camp teams to ensure staff know effective strategies to use when reading with campers.

Promising Pages

The Y works with Promising Pages to get new and gently used books into kids' homes. Each camp hosts a book-a-palooza event where campers select at least 2 books to take home and keep.

Read Charlotte

SLI has been a collaboration with Read Charlotte since the program's inception. Read Charlotte provided funding to pilot and scale the program in 2017, 2018, and 2021. Read Charlotte continues to provide thought partnership on program development and help identify new community partners who would benefit from participating in SLI.

RESOURCE TOOLKIT

In addition to directly supporting local camps with materials and staffing to implement SLI, the YMCA of Greater Charlotte developed a Summer Literacy Infusion open resource toolkit in 2021. The toolkit is updated annually and is designed to provide guidance for local and national agencies interested in implementing literacy practices in their camps. The toolkit can be accessed at no cost in alignment with the Y's mission to serve all.

