

Summer Reading Importance

Children who are not reading proficiently in third grade are four times as likely to drop out of high school compared to their peers (according to the study *Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation*).

Therefore, we support out-of-school literacy initiatives that create long-term impact for all students. This means working closely with community partners to ensure these activities are effective and sustainable.

We have discovered library summer reading programs are essential tools that help students bridge the gap between school years. During the summer months, Raise Your Hand Beyond partners with the school district to open two or more elementary school libraries for communities to access for literacy activities. By doing so, we provide continual learning opportunities, especially for students who tend to experience the “summer slide”.

Summer Reading Programs: Benefits



Raise Your Hand Beyond

Literacy Initiatives



What is Raise Your Hand Beyond?

Raise Your Hand Beyond (RYHB) is a sub-grant for out-of-school instructional programs that provide reading and writing opportunities for rising Kindergarteners up to fourth grade students. Raise Your Hand Beyond is supported by the Raise Your Hand tutoring program.

The purpose of RYHB is to fund programs that target students with the greatest risk of experiencing summer reading loss and/or with limited access to literacy resources. This grant awards up to \$2500 to a United Way or TN Afterschool Network partner for program instruction, transportation and/or academic material.



Eligibility: Must be a 501 (c) 3. Programs are not regulated by RYHB, but are required to have **all** personnel cleared background screening prior to caring for children.

Service Criteria

All programs must demonstrate a minimum of four characteristics below in order to be considered for funding:

- Target rising kindergarteners through 4th graders with limited access to literacy resources.
- Target rising first through third graders who rank below the 40th percentile in English & Language Arts.
- Demonstrate supplemental material insufficiency for academic instruction.
- Serve a minimum of five students per session. Suggested instructor to student ratio is one to ten.
- Provide 4 hours or more of instruction time per week.

Programs We Support



Books from Birth Week
September 16 -22

We celebrate the Imagination Library of Middle Tennessee by recruiting volunteers to read in preschool classrooms and donate books.



Preschool Intervention
Year-Round

Provide assessment tools for Preschool classrooms to assess Kindergarten readiness and skills proficiency through interactive resources and literature.

Reduce Summer Reading Loss
June - July



Community partners provide access to literacy resources to underserve communities over the summer.



National Reading Day
January 22

We purchase books, create literacy kits and recruit volunteers to distribute to PreK- 5th grade students within the county through community-wide events.