

Y READERS

For many children from low-income households, learning stops when the school year ends. While their higher income classmates continue to learn through vacations, trips to museums and cultural attractions, and fee-based summer camps, low-income children have far fewer opportunities to gain academic ground while out of school.

The McGaw YMCA's Y Readers program is a free literacy and enrichment program designed to reverse summer learning loss and help close the achievement gap among children in Evanston.

Y Readers 5 core components:

- 1 Daily literacy instruction from D-65 certified teachers
- 2 Strong parental engagement for sustained improvement
- 3 Enrichment activities in character development, music, art, and nutrition as well as weekly field trips that reinforce classroom learning
- 4 Daily physical activity, including weekly swim lessons and beach days
- 5 Continuous assessment and reporting

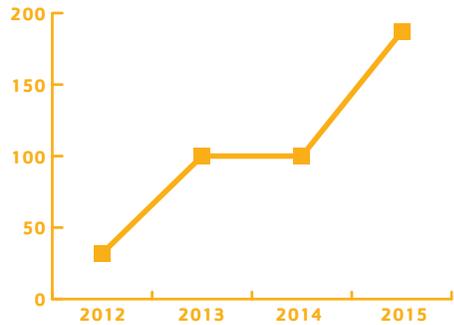


Launched as a pilot program in 2012, Y Readers is now one of the McGaw YMCA's most successful and impactful programs.

Y Readers is a partnership between the McGaw YMCA and Evanston/Skokie School District 65. The program serves rising 1st through 3rd graders who read below grade level. Over the course of four summers, Y Readers has grown from serving 32 students at one site in 2012 to 187 students at four sites in 2015.

The Y Readers program has proven to be a powerful tool against summer learning loss. In summer 2014 students gained on average three months of reading skills over the course of the program. Had they not participated in Y Readers, these students could have lost as many as two months of reading skills. Instead, Y Readers participants were more excited to learn and eager to start the new school year.

Y Readers: Students Served



Find out more:
www.mcgawymca.org/YReaders

"I have been quite impressed with the program. As a retired teacher from District 65, I certainly am aware of the need for this kind of summer study..."

- Judy, Volunteer Reading Buddy

