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**

**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
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.

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.

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