



Literacy Playground 2024

APPLICATION GUIDELINES



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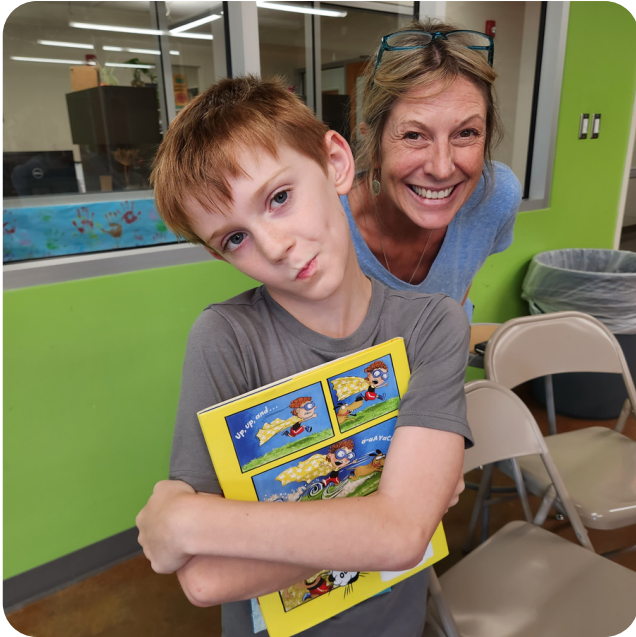
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LITERACY PLAYGROUND APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

AR Kids Read (AKR) is currently seeking Literacy Playground partner sites for Summer 2024. We are accepting applications from sites in Pulaski and Jefferson Counties.



Join us for an information session on
February 15 at 12:00 pm.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83360475853?
pwd=NTnBuGGMZ0rPFwSqaf5wZH7sZ2Z9bb.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83360475853?pwd=NTnBuGGMZ0rPFwSqaf5wZH7sZ2Z9bb.1)

If interested, please read the information in this packet and submit the application via google link no later than Friday, March 15. [Register by clicking here.](#) Sites will be contacted to schedule a visit for phase two of the application process, which will include a collaborative conversation to understand the organization's unique needs and structure as well as to ensure mutual fit. Selected program sites will be notified by April 8.

What is the Literacy Playground?



The AKR Literacy Playground program is an engaging, dynamic and camp-themed literacy program designed to reduce summer slide and help students close grade-level reading gaps. In Summer 2023, 93% of enrolled students had no summer slide, with 71% maintaining their reading benchmark and 22% advancing based on pre and post test scores.

The Literacy Playground program is intended to be embedded in an established summer program's daily schedule. Each site will be assigned a certified teacher and intern who will lead two classes, one for rising 1st and 2nd graders and one for rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The one-hour classes meet four times per week (Monday through Thursday). Students will not only receive valuable foundational literacy skill building and reading and writing practice, they will also engage in activities that promote social emotional learning and engagement skills. Emotional strength lessons focus on belonging, friendship, curiosity, kindness, confidence, courage and hope.

Program Dates:

- Week of June 3 - Pre-assessment and teacher onboarding
- Week of June 10 – week of July 22 – Literacy Playground classes
- Week of July 29 – Post-assessments
- July 19 (tentative) - Hoop session



The Benefits

- High-dosage literacy-focused education sessions led by a certified teacher and intern
- Pre- and post- assessment data to show student progress
- Parent engagement resources for at home learning
- Turnkey literacy program that includes onboarding, assessments, and AKR support
- Social-emotional learning as well as literacy skill building
- Opportunity for students to participate in a one-day basketball themed celebration, Hoop Session

AKR Pledges to

- Foster a collaborative, enthusiastic, and supportive environment for site staff
- Recruit, hire, and train a certified teacher and intern to lead the Literacy Playground classes
- Adhere to partner sites' security and facility guidelines; striving to honor organizational culture
- Ensure completion of background check requirements of teachers, interns, and community volunteers
- Facilitate site training and onboarding
- Administer pre- and post-assessments and provide a student data summary to the partner site
- Distribute books to enrolled students to help build their home libraries
- Provide parent involvement letters and activities to encourage families to extend the learning opportunities
- Address any site challenges or concerns in a timely manner
- Host the end-of-the summer program celebration, Hoop Session



Summer Program Sites pledge to

- Establish a welcoming and collaborative team atmosphere for site and teaching team
- Provide a Site Coordinator to serve as primary contact
- Commit to hosting the classes four times per week for 8 weeks
- Schedule and host pre- and post- assessments in consultation with AKR staff
- Provide a designated classroom and storage area for materials
- Participate in the site onboarding and training
- Ensure the completion of student registration which includes parent letters and student media releases
- Designate a minimum of one staff member per class to support the teaching team with classroom management
- Communicate with AKR staff regularly with any issues or concerns
- Submit an end of summer program feedback form to AKR to assist with future program design improvements

To be considered, sites must:

1. Run an established daily summer program for youth
2. Enroll a minimum of 35 students in the Literacy Playground classes
3. Participate in the cost sharing of the program. See Cost Sharing section below
4. Participate in an exploratory site visit where AKR staff facilitate a conversation with site staff
5. Agree to the above site pledge

Cost-Sharing Agreement

The Literacy Playground provides a high-quality, engaging literacy education package to site partners. The program spans from on-boarding to pre- and post- student assessment and end of session data summaries. Also included is employment of certified teachers and college interns, books for students, parent supplements, and much more.

AR Kids Read invests, on average, \$15,500 per partner site. To maintain this high level of support and serve an ever-growing number of students, applicant sites are asked to make a partner match of \$5,000 to offset a portion of these expenses. AR Kids Read is happy to provide supplemental program information for organizational grant writing efforts and actively works to assist with ways to defray costs, for example, city partnerships, foundation grants, etc. In some cases, these fundraising efforts completely defray program match cost.

As part of the phase two application site visit, we will discuss cost sharing arrangements and your specific attendance and funding needs.

We look forward to partnering with you!

Questions?

Contact Rebekah Wills, Program Director,
RWills@arkidsread.org

