



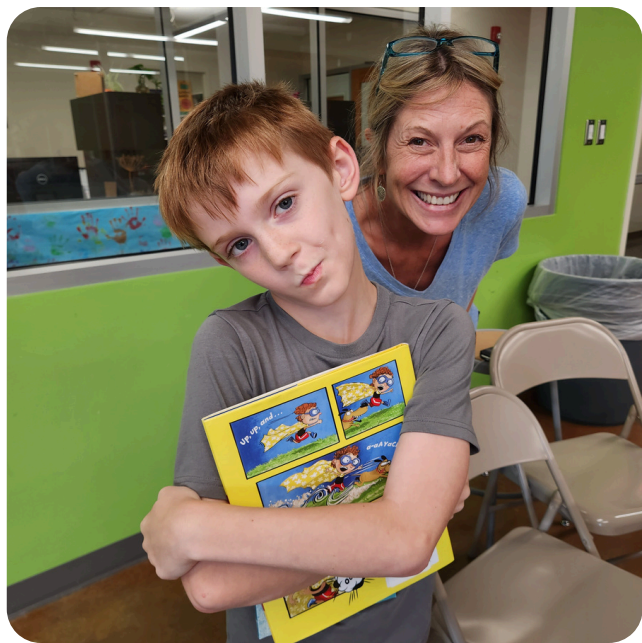
Literacy Playground 2025

APPLICATION GUIDELINES



LITERACY PLAYGROUND APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

AR Kids Read (AKR) is currently seeking Literacy Playground partner sites for Summer 2025. We are accepting applications from sites in Central and Southeast Arkansas.



Join us for an information session on
February 20 at 10:00 am.

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78019326097?
pwd=zQXLCpCqbMStLpzsygwwCqRLsDcx7C.1](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78019326097?pwd=zQXLCpCqbMStLpzsygwwCqRLsDcx7C.1)

If interested, please read the information in this packet and submit the application via google link no later than March 21. 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 a mutual fit for the program. Selected program sites will be notified by April 14.

[Register Here](#)

What is the Literacy Playground?



The AKR Literacy Playground program is an engaging and camp-style literacy program designed to reduce summer slide and help students close grade-level reading gaps. In Summer 2024, 94% of enrolled students had no summer slide, with 58% maintaining their reading benchmark and 36% advancing based on pre and post test scores.

The Literacy Playground program is intended to be embedded in an established out-of-school 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.

Program Dates:

- Week of June 2 - Pre-assessment and teacher onboarding
- Week of June 9 – week of July 21 – Literacy Playground classes
- Week of July 28 – Post-assessments
- July 25 (Tentative) - End-of-Summer Celebration



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 End-of-Year celebration.

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-summer program celebration



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 7 weeks
- Encourage transparent communication with AKR staff about any scheduling conflicts or concerns
- 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
- Accountable for arranging transportation to the End-of-Summer celebration.

To be considered, sites must:

1. Run an established daily out-of-school summer program for youth
2. Enroll a minimum of 35 students, not to exceed 50 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, background check verification, books for students, parent supplements, and much more.

AR Kids Read invests, on average, \$15,000 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 Michael Barger, Program Director,
mbarger@arkidsread.org

