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## ESLC Pilots Pre-K Tutoring

### Early Years Are Learning Years

By Sr. Sharon White, OSF

Early literacy has received great attention in recent years for one major reason: to help young learners enter kindergarten ready for success.

Based on research, the achievement gap begins before a child is school-age. It is estimated that a typical middle-class child enters school with approximately 1,000 hours of one-to-one picture book reading, compared with an average of just 25 hours for a child from a low-income family (Storch and Whitehurst, 2001). Further, at age 3, children in professional families hear an average of 2,153 words per hour. Children in working class families hear an average of 1,251 words per hour. And children in welfare families only hear an average of 616 words per hour (Hart and Risley, 1995).

Responding to the need for early literacy, the ESLC decided to pilot a pre-K program during the 2013-14 school year at Community of Peace Academy. Nine learners were tutored in the preschool suite four days a week for 20 minutes per session.

What are the benefits of including pre-K learners in the ESLC schema? A focus on early literacy has the potential to increase the percentage of children from the east side of Saint Paul who meet kindergarten readiness benchmarks, to improve individual learners’ self-confidence, to develop book handling skills, and most importantly, to foster a love of reading!

When the pilot started children were in varied places - some were able to spell their names while some didn’t know the difference between a letter and a number.



*Vanessa helps a Pre-K student name common objects in English*

*Continued on page 3*

## Help ESLC Reach More Students

You can **double your gift to the ESLC by qualifying for a matching grant!**

Help match a \$20,000 challenge grant by December 31, 2014 from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

Donations that meet any of the following criteria will be matched:

- Dollar for dollar for all **new contributions**
- Dollar for dollar for **contributions from lapsed donors** who have not given for a year or more in support of the ESLC
- Dollar for dollar for **increased portion of contributions** of those who donated during the 2013 calendar year

**It’s easy! You can donate using the enclosed envelope or online by visiting our website [www.eastsidelearningcenter.org](http://www.eastsidelearningcenter.org)**

# What Happens to Children During the Summer?

By Sr. Audrey Lindenfelser, SSND

A break from books can mean big losses for at-risk readers, but ESLC can help keep pages turning and minds sharp.

During the summer months, disadvantaged children tread water at best or even fall behind in what we call "SUMMER SLIDE" while better off children build their skills steadily over the summer months (National Summer Learning Association). Summer learning programs can help close the achievement gap that has been attributed, at least in part, to cumulative learning loss during the summers and that has been shown to be steeper for low-income students than for others.

Reading is one of the most important things students can do in the summer to keep their skills sharp so they can return to school in fall ready to learn. A structured reading program like the East Side Learning Center is essential to getting at-risk children to read over the summer!



*Automatic sight word recognition is a daily activity for ESLC students as they play "Boing" with their tutors.*

## Did you know?

- The reading achievement of children from low-income families typically declines an average of three months between June and September, while that of typical middle-class students improves or remains the same (Anne McGill-Franzen & Richard Allington, 2003).
- Summer learning shortfall experienced by low-income children over the elementary grades has consequences that reverberate throughout the child's schooling, and can impact whether a child ultimately earns a high school diploma and continues on to college (Alexander, et al, 207a).
- During the summer, children from lower-income families lose, on average, more learning specifically in reading comprehension and word recognition than children from higher-income families. (Augustine, et al, 2011).
- "Regardless of other activities, the best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer" (Anne McGill-Franzen & Richard Allington, 2003).

## How Does ESLC Address Summer Slide?

### Summer Literacy Camp at Community of Peace Academy

For children who just completed Pre-K or Kindergarten. Camp will be held in the mornings, July 21-August 14, 4 days a week.

Using *Under the Sea* theme, children will rotate to three literacy opportunities: tutoring, technology, and creative arts.

### How Much Does Summer School Cost?

\$300 sponsors a child for 4 weeks of summer one-on-one tutoring.

\$450 sponsors a child for 4 weeks, 3 hours a day, of summer reading camp

### One-on-One Tutoring at John A. Johnson Elementary

For children who just completed Pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Each day a child receives 45-50 minutes of one-on-one reading instruction, 5 days a week for four weeks.

Parents register their child for a session between 8:00 am-2:30pm.



**One Child. One Book. One Hour.**

Will you be the one to make a difference?

## Success in the 2013 – 2014 School Year

By Ted Kaehler

As we approach summer and the conclusion of the 2014 school year, it is a good time for reflection on the great progress that the ESLC has made with our students and in the community. As chair of the Fundraising Committee, I am very proud of the organization and all the hard work put in by our volunteers and educators; they make a real difference in the students' lives.

ESLC tutored nearly 300 students this year at four schools on the east side of Saint Paul. At every school the results are impressive. For example, well over 2/3 of all the students met or exceeded their benchmark level in their mid-year (Jan) reading assessment or showed multiple levels of improvement. Today, through our preliminary data, we know that 90% of our 125 Kindergartners are reading at Level C in Guided Reading. This means they are ready for first grade reading! This is real difference! Additionally, ESLC is able to accomplish this for roughly \$1500 per pupil, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and educators who year after year give back to the students more and more.

### THANK YOU!

We extend a big thank you to our ESLC donors and funders who are making all of this possible for our children!

Every dollar makes a difference at the ESLC, so please, if you know of anyone able to volunteer or donate \$10, \$20, or \$100, it will make a big difference. It only costs about \$60 for ESLC to give a child one week of tutoring! All private donations can be made on-line at [www.eastsidelearningcenter.org](http://www.eastsidelearningcenter.org).

#### Early Years are Learning Years

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Since early learners have short attention spans lessons must be focused, deliberate, and fast-paced. Because research has shown that alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, and print awareness are early literacy skills that contribute significantly to later reading achievement (National Early Literacy Panel, 2008), we deliberately concentrate on alphabet letter identification and sounds, printing first and last names, recognizing rhyming words, concepts of print (front and back covers of book, left to right and top to bottom) and enjoying a picture book with time for discussion.

The ESLC desires to have children enter kindergarten with foundational skills because the earlier we “unlock potential” the better off children will be! The pre-K teachers have seen notable growth and claim that “every child would love a tutor...the ESLC tutors are some of the most popular people who visit Preschool 4 Peace!”



*Preparing to read Build Big, Alexandria and ELL (English Language Learner) student, Kalisha, learn about dump trucks and backhoes.*



*Tutors Sister Rita and Lizz help Lucky and Kingston choose books to keep as their very own, courtesy of ESLC.*



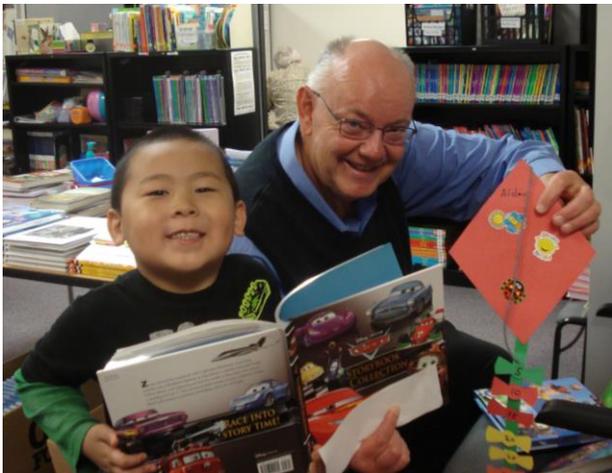
**One Child. One Book. One Hour.**

Will you be the one to make a difference?

Thank you for Your Support

Address Service Requested

### ESLC CONTACT INFORMATION



*Kindergartner Alden chooses a book to keep as tutor Greg shows off Alden's long-tailed kite representing over 35 books read in April. Pride in accomplishment!*

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