

## 5. Taking the Summer Reading Club into Your Community

### Outreach to Summer Camps and Child-Care Centres

There are often many children in our communities who cannot take part in a summer reading club because they are enrolled in summer long activities such as day camps, summer schools and child-care centres. One way to reach these children is to incorporate an element of outreach into your TD Summer Reading Club (TD SRC).

Examine your community to find out where it is logical to do some outreach. Some places to look include:

- Summer day camps (municipal parks and recreation programs, private day camps, charity run day camps, YM/YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs)
- Child-care centres
- Community/public housing projects
- Faith-based programs

Look for programs that are general in focus. While there are skill-based activities/camps (sports, technology, theatre) in communities, these programs are often so focused on achieving skills that there is no room to include a summer reading club component.

Outreach to summer camps and child-care centres can take several forms:

#### 1. Programs and Summer Reading Club at a camp or child-care centre

Library staff or volunteers make trips to the camp location or child-care centre to offer programs based on books and reading. These would occur regularly and library staff would register children at the site in the TD SRC.

#### 2. Visits to the library

Children and child-care workers visit the library for special programs and activities. They could take part in regularly scheduled events or have special programs presented to them by library staff. As part of the visit all the children would be encouraged to register for the TD SRC.

#### 3. Child-care workers register children in the TD SRC

The library cooperates with child-care workers to provide TD SRC materials. Child-care workers register and encourage all children to participate in the TD SRC and to record books read. The child-care workers report back to the library at the end of the summer.

#### 4. Orientation of child-care workers

Library staff or volunteers would take part in training sessions organized for child-care workers. As part of the orientation, library staff would cover how to incorporate reading into their program planning and show them how to choose appropriate books. This could take place in conjunction with any of the above scenarios or as a stand-alone activity.

## **5. Library book collections in camp and child-care centres**

The library provides collections of books for child-care workers to use with their children over the summer. Collections could be signed out for the whole summer or regularly changed as suits the library and the centre.

### **Keep in mind:**

- You will need to assist child-care workers in getting all the children registered and comply with their requirements for parental permission before taking any personal information.
- You may need to order extra kits if you are planning a significant outreach program.
- Child-care workers are often new to serving children and welcome advice, resources and ideas to make their programs fun and engaging.
- It is advisable to set up an evaluation component from the start. Make sure child-care workers know in advance that they must track the number of participants, and that registration forms and/or evaluation forms are required to be completed in order to evaluate the success of the program.
- Follow up with the child-care workers at the end of the summer to get feedback on the program, evaluation and registration statistics.

## **Outreach to Other Community Groups**

In addition to working with children in formal care situations you can also take the TD SRC into the community by working with groups and agencies such as:

- Girl Guides and Scouts
- Family literacy agencies
- Community information and health centres
- Family shelters
- Hospitals

You can also look for opportunities to highlight the TD SRC at community events such as:

- Canada Day and other community celebrations
- Local fairs
- Community picnics and outdoor events

Throughout the summer, look for ways to take the TD SRC into the community. This is a great way to use materials you have on hand after the initial registration push in your branches.

## Sample Training Session for Child-care Workers

The following is an outline of a sample training session that could be offered to child-care workers. It focuses on the importance of reading and how to incorporate reading into their general camp program. The time allotted to each component can be changed according to the amount of time you are given for the training session.

### Introduction

5 minutes

Be sure to include information about local branch hours, location and contact information

### The importance of summer reading

5 minutes

Talk about why we do summer reading clubs, why kids love to take part in them and how they help children

You could use a quote such as:

“A review of literature provided evidence that summer reading clubs were effective tools for keeping summer learning loss at bay and improving children’s reading performances”

TD Summer Reading Club Literature Review

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/obj/009003/f2/009003-06-040-e.pdf>

### TD Summer Reading Club

5 minutes

Describe the TD SRC, registration information, forms, and kits

### How to weave reading into a summer day camp program

10 minutes

Give ideas for using books and reading throughout the camp day:

- Storytimes
- Reader’s theatre
- Quiet reading times
- Reading games
- Shared reading/ reading partners
- Poetry breaks

### Reading aloud

10 minutes

Demonstrate reading a favourite book, (e.g. use felts or puppets)

Share tips for reading aloud, such as:

- Choose books you love to read, never read a book you do not like just because it fits the theme
- Choose books with a strong story line, that has an obvious beginning, middle and ending
- Choose books that kids can relate to
- Make sure that the books are age appropriate (know your audience)
- Look for ways to encourage participation (e.g. repetitive phrases that kids can repeat)
- Read the book in advance and know it well

Sample reading-based program

5 minutes

Distribute handout(s) of sample programs based on books, use program ideas from the TD SRC staff manual or, if possible, find out the camp or centre themes in advance and base your handout on those themes.

Practise reading aloud in pairs

10 minutes

Hand out good examples of read-aloud books and have the child-care workers practise reading to each other.

Questions