

AWAKE SUMMER READING PROGRAM

This summer Awake focused on meeting the needs of the families in our community by using our knowledgeable, returning educators to provide a our program at Berwyn Gardens, a local park.

19
STUDENTS

4 TEEN
PROGRAM
AIDES

3
EDUCATORS

Instruction was twice a week for 45 minutes to 1 hour including a read aloud, small group reading instruction in reading comprehensions skills.

FEEDBACK:

The students loved being outdoors. Teachers were able to incorporate nature into their reading lessons. For example, they played Hopscotch to learn sight words. Students worked well and were inquisitive and excited to learn.



PROGRAM AIDES

100% indicated growth in teaching, leadership skills, and community connection.

GOALS MET:

- 85% of participants increased skills
- 87% of participants grew in fluency
- 83% of students few in reading words

CHALLENGES

- Being outdoors meant weather was more of a factor
- Our time together was too short!
- The ongoing difficulties of COVID affected many family's lives.

CONCLUSION:

The Awake Summer Reading Program positively impacted participants despite challenging circumstances. All participants (learners, aides, and educators) showed growth and had a meaningful experience. Awake has provided a quality Summer Reading Program to the Berwyn and Cicero communities for the past seven years and looks forward to building this program in the future.



AWAKE SUMMER MATH & SCIENCE PROGRAM

This summer's program took place outside Berwyn Gardens, teachers crafted a curriculum with topics related to environmental science, physics, and geology.

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Students made windsocks and experimented with paper airplanes; participated in insect scavenger hunts and planted pollinator gardens to take home; experimented with buoyancy and capillary action; explored and took home geodes and trilobite fossils; and dissected owl pellets. Students also participated in a variety of organized games for fun, exercise and that explored natural relationships, such as those between predators and prey.

He has matured and shows more interest in these subjects."
- Parent

"I'll ask how did it go? He'll respond with excitement and ask if he can do what he learn at home..."
- Parent

"One favorite experience of mine was when we did mini explosions and the little kids joined towards the end. The older kids would have a way of understanding the process of what happened when the liquids combined and the younger kids reacted more to the product of the experiment."
- Program Aide

FAMILY FEEDBACK:

Parent feedback from an online survey was positive. Parents indicated that their child increased their interest in the subjects that were covered and expressed excitement about each class. Parents also stated that their child enjoyed bringing home what they had learned and were excited to see the plants for their pollinator garden growing.

SUCCESSES:

- Teachers developed and implemented a hands-on curriculum.
- Providing an opportunity for all involved to have face-to-face interaction around interesting topics while making new friends.
- Teen aides stepped up to take on more responsibility and leadership.

CHALLENGES

- Attendance goal of 80% of students attending 9 or more classes not fully met
- High temperatures
- Complications and difficulties associated with Covid

CONCLUSION:

Overall, Awake's summer programming continues to provide excellent opportunities for students to engage with enriching content, make friends, and have positive experiences with other members of their community. The affordability of these programs, and the level of expertise and passion brought by teachers and assistants is of significant value to students, families, and our community.

"I think my favorite memory was the last day, when one kid asked me, "Mr __, will you be here next year? And when I said yes, as he left, he shouted to me, "See you next year!"
- Program Aide

