

Early Learner Tutor Program



A child's success in school and throughout life depends in large part on the ability to read.

Teachers point to children's ability to read by the end of grade three as a key milestone in their education. Past grade three, the curriculum shifts from "learning to read" to "reading to learn," and the ability to read is essential to succeed in all subjects. In fact, reading by grade level by the end of grade three is so important that research shows students who struggle to keep pace past grade three rarely catch up (Calgary Reads).

The science of teaching reading is sometimes complex. For some children, the letters on the page easily form words and sentences. But for others, the acquisition of sounds and symbols is jumbled and inconsistent. For these children, feelings of inadequacy can become so entrenched that by six and seven years old they already believe they are incapable of reading. For them, a much different approach is required to ensure success.

The Early Learner Tutor Program pairs struggling readers in grades one to three with an experienced tutor to help them progress toward grade level reading.

All students benefit from:

- One to one support from an experienced tutor
- 20 hours of specialized instruction tailored to each student's unique learning profile
- Family engagement and books at the child's reading level to read at home

A child who can't read at grade level by 3rd grade is four times less likely to graduate than a child who does read proficiently by that time. Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13 times less likely to graduate on time than his or her proficient, wealthier peer. (American Educational Research Association)

Visit www.spsfoundation.ca to donate

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“The literacy tutor program provided them with intensive, individualized instruction led by a gifted teacher. When they were assessed at the end of the program, we discovered that each child had made significant gains in his or her reading scores. These children now believe they are readers.”

~School Principal



“Students in our school have received a life-changing gift. The pride we see etched in their faces is priceless.”

~School Principal



“I love to read now. You helped me with words I didn't know. It was fun because I was reading books that were short and they weren't that hard. I feel happy because I love to read books!”

~Grade Three Student



EARLY LEARNER TUTOR PROGRAM

In 2013 the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, with the support of a private donor, launched the Early Learner Tutor Program in an effort to help learners develop their reading skills and gain confidence during a critical period of their academic growth.

The Early Learner Tutor Program is unlike any other children's literacy program in our community in terms of its

depth and scope. The program pairs struggling readers in grades one to three with an experienced tutor to help them progress toward grade level reading. Students meet with their tutors for a minimum of twenty hours over a seven-week period in a familiar school setting. Tutors tailor the instruction to match each learner's specific needs and work closely with parents and classroom teachers to reinforce the learning at home and in the classroom.

The program is currently available in nineteen public schools, with the goal of expanding to additional schools each year. More than 200 struggling readers benefit each year from this support.

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“The early learning years are irreplaceable, when reading and learning are the key to lifelong success. The Early Learner Tutor Program makes the most of this critical time when children are most receptive to learning.”

~School Superintendent



Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation connects families, schools, and communities to meet the shared goal of enhancing education for Saskatoon Public Schools students.



Failure to read well by the end of grade three is associated with high school dropout even when factors such as gender, family income, and parental education level are taken into account (Calgary Reads).

Impact

Strong outcomes and powerful testimonials illustrate the tremendous impact the Early Learner Tutor Program is having on children in our community. Simply put, the program is making a difference for children when it matters most.

Robust evaluation of the program shows the average gains by students to be:

- Grade one students achieved almost ½ a year’s growth
- Grade two students achieved just above a ½ a year’s growth
- Grade three students achieved ¾ of a year’s growth

Additional positive outcomes include improved school attendance, increased confidence and willingness to read with others, increased ability to work on-task and stronger parent engagement and understanding of how to support children at home.

More impressively, long-term evaluation of children taking part in the program demonstrates that even three years after participating most students’ reading levels continued to develop and they were able to use their new learning strategies to boost success in other areas.

For more information or to discuss a partnership, please contact Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation by email at info@spsfoundation.ca or by calling 306.683.8550



Early Learner Tutor Program

Opportunities for Support

The Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation invites our community partners to invest in student success by making a contribution to the Early Learner Tutor Program. Contributions can be structured in a number of meaningful and creative ways that align with your values and giving priorities.



Here is how your donation would make a difference:

SAMPLE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- \$ 65,000.00** sponsor one session of intensive support for 70 young readers
- \$ 15,000.00** help 16 students benefit from 20-hours of one-to-one support
- \$ 900.00** fully support one child to participate in the tutor program
- \$ 125.00** funds one week of tutoring for a struggling reader

Recognizing Your Support

We value our partners and make it a priority to acknowledge their contributions. We work closely with supporters to construct a recognition plan that meets their needs.

Examples of recognition include:

- Naming opportunities and custom branding for major sponsors
- Special events at a local school for media and the community
- Signage inside schools and the Saskatoon Board of Education office
- Recognition through online and print advertising
- Communications directly to Saskatoon Public Schools students and families

For more information, or to discuss a partnership, please contact us at 306.683.8550 or info@spsfoundation.ca.

A 1% increase in the literacy rate would generate \$18 billion in economic growth every year (Canadian Literacy and Learning Network).

Investment in literacy programming has a 241% return on investment (Canadian Literacy and Learning Network).