

Summer Reading Program at Penn State Harrisburg

The Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg Summer Reading Program is designed to help young people aged 6 to 21 years who have reading and writing disabilities to improve their skills, their attitude toward learning, and their self concept. Children are referred by classroom teachers, reading specialists, principals, counselors, physicians, and parents.

The child meets individually with their clinician four mornings a week for four weeks (**Monday-Thursday, July 5-29**) in the classrooms of Penn State Harrisburg. The clinician is a graduate student completing the requirements for certification as a reading specialist. One of the requirements for Pennsylvania certification is the completion of mandated clinical hours. Therefore, in order to be accepted for the Summer Reading Program, families must ensure that the child attends all sixteen sessions. **No vacations can be scheduled during the weeks of the Summer Reading Program.**

The first goal of the summer reading program is to improve the child's attitude toward reading. This is accomplished by finding out the child's primary interests and then designing each lesson around those interests. In addition, the child is introduced to the best in children's and adolescent literature through daily read aloud sessions by their clinician.

The second goal of the summer program is to determine the specific reading problems of the child through formal and informal assessments. Under the supervision of the director, several goals are identified in the areas of word study, comprehension, study skills, and/or writing. Individualized methods are researched and implemented to determine which ones are most effective for the child.

The third goal is improving the self concept of the child. Thus, all lessons are target the child's instructional or independent reading level at which a high rate of success can be maintained. Difficulty is increased by small increments and progress is demonstrated to the child through discussion and behavior-specific feedback.

An integral part of the program is the cooperation of parents. Parents are interviewed by the clinician, are provided weekly progress reports, and receive an in-depth case study at the conclusion of the program. Through these efforts, parents can more confidently and effectively assist their children in continued improvement of their reading and writing skills. In order to ensure parents' commitment and purchase materials, a fee of \$150.00 is charged for the program.

Communication with the child's school is also important. Classroom teachers from the previous school year are interviewed and records are obtained. With parental permission, a copy of the case study is sent to the school.

Application: Summer Reading Program at Penn State Harrisburg

Summer: 2010

Date _____

Student's Name _____

Child's _____ School _____

Parent or Guardian _____

School _____ District _____

Home Address _____
_____ Zip _____

Grade presently attending _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____

Home Phone _____

Child's Teacher _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Have you applied for the program before? _____

Has your child attended the program before? ___yes ___no _____ year

Is a family member employed by Penn State University? _____

_____ Name _____ Position _____

Child's _____ interest _____

Child's _____ approximate _____ reading
level _____

What special help has the child received?

What is your child's reading problem?

Grades in reading _____ Materials used for instruction _____

Will child have transportation to Penn State Harrisburg for the program? _____

You will be notified of acceptance into the program by April 1. **There is a \$150.00 fee due upon your child's acceptance.**

I hereby give permission for my child _____ to be administered diagnostic tests which may give some insight into his/her reading deficiency. I understand these tests do not infringe on his personal rights and privacy and that all results remain confidential. I agree that my child's school can be contacted before the program to obtain relevant information. **I also agree that my child will attend all sixteen sessions and pledge that no vacations are or will be scheduled during the Summer Reading Program.**

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Please return to:

Patti Souders

Penn State Harrisburg, Room W314

777 West Harrisburg Pike

Middletown, PA 17057-4898