

PEI
Literacy
Alliance

Summer Tutoring Program for Kids 2015 Final Report



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Table of Contents

Introduction	page 2
Student Information	page 4
Program Partners	page 5
Program Sponsors	page 6
Coordinator's Report	page 7
Staffing	page 8
Evaluation Report and Highlights	page 9
Reading Levels Evaluation	page 10
Student Attitudinal Evaluation	page 11
Tutor Experiential Learning Evaluation	page 12
Resource Teacher Evaluations	page 13
Student Evaluations	page 14
Parent Evaluations	page 15
Library Technicians Evaluations	page 16
Conclusion	page 17
Appendix A - Program Budget	

Introduction

The PEI Literacy Alliance has delivered the Summer Tutoring Program (STPK) Island wide in English and French since 2001. STPK runs for 10 weeks during July and August and is for children in grades Kindergarten through six who struggle in reading, writing, and math. The program employs post secondary students who are working toward a teaching career. STPK is offered free of charge.

Over the past 14 years the program has helped more than 10,000 children maintain or improve their literacy skills during the summer months. This program has employed more than 350 post secondary students and has provided them with relevant work experience for their future careers.

There is a strong need for this program. Parents, teachers, tutors, library staff and students have expressed how valuable this program is and wish it could serve more children. We receive student referrals from resource teachers, who tell us that they would refer more children if they were allowed. We allow approximately 11% of the population in each school across the Island. We create a waitlist so that tutors will be able to replace students who have dropped out of the program. Each year there are children that remain on the waitlist.

The purpose of this program is to support the learning objectives of the school system by offering an alternative learning environment during the summer months. STPK is designed to be fun and engaging. The aim of STPK is that students will maintain or improve their literacy and essential skills (specifically reading, writing and math) over the summer months.

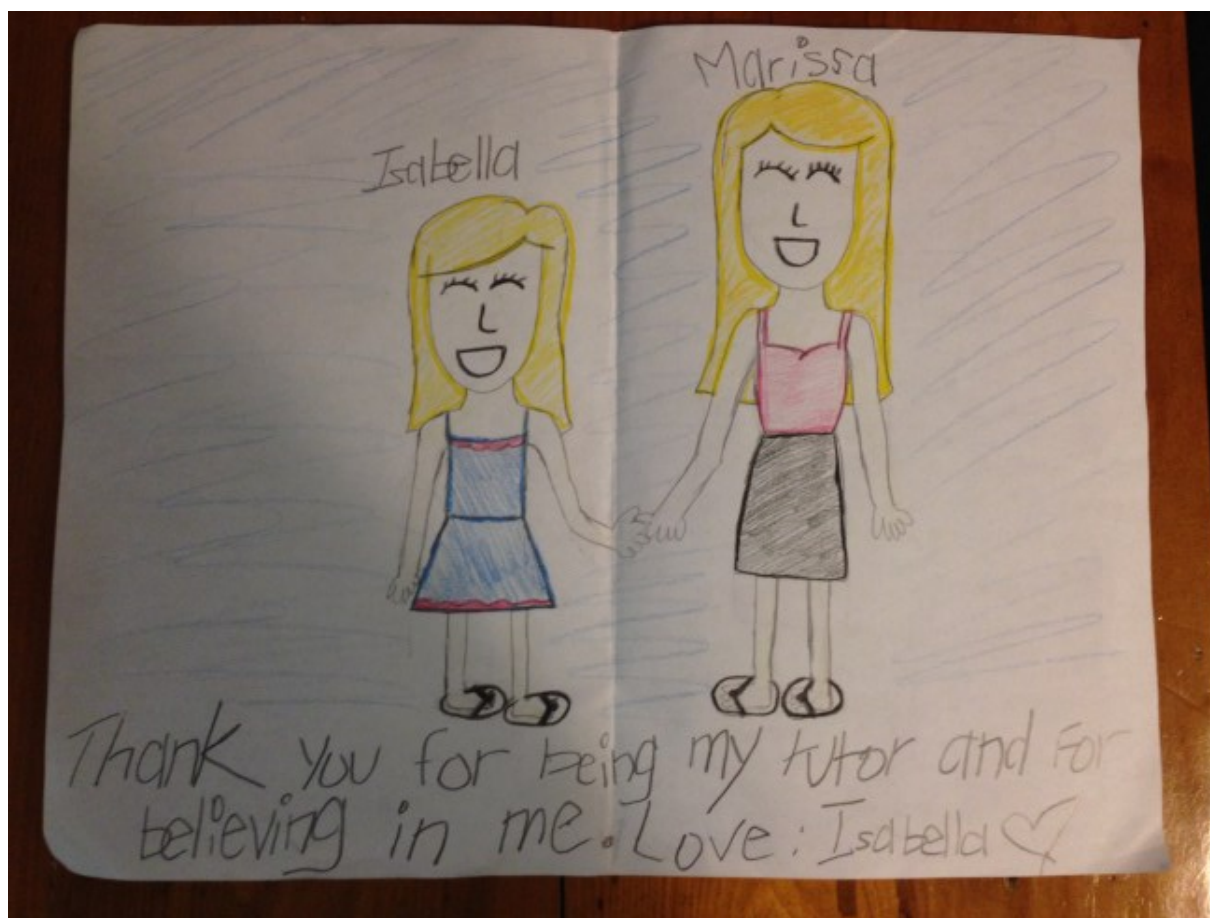


"I didn't know I could read like this!"

Ryan, STPK Student

We aim to provide a positive learning experience for children who are struggling in school and help them develop confidence. Our approach is to cultivate a love of learning in children and help them reach their full academic potential.

We also provide important experiential learning for university students, especially those in Education Programs. We hire and train qualified post-secondary students to be tutors. The aim is to give post-secondary students relevant work experience to help prepare them for their careers.



"The Summer Tutoring Program is so important to students involved. I have learned so much from my kids this year, this program is awesome."

Marissa Hashie, Summer Tutor

Student Information

We provide tutoring for English, French Immersion, Francophone and EAL students. We work with resource teachers to identify students who would benefit the most from this program. Each year resource teachers from all 48 schools identify more than 1000 students who are struggling in the classroom.

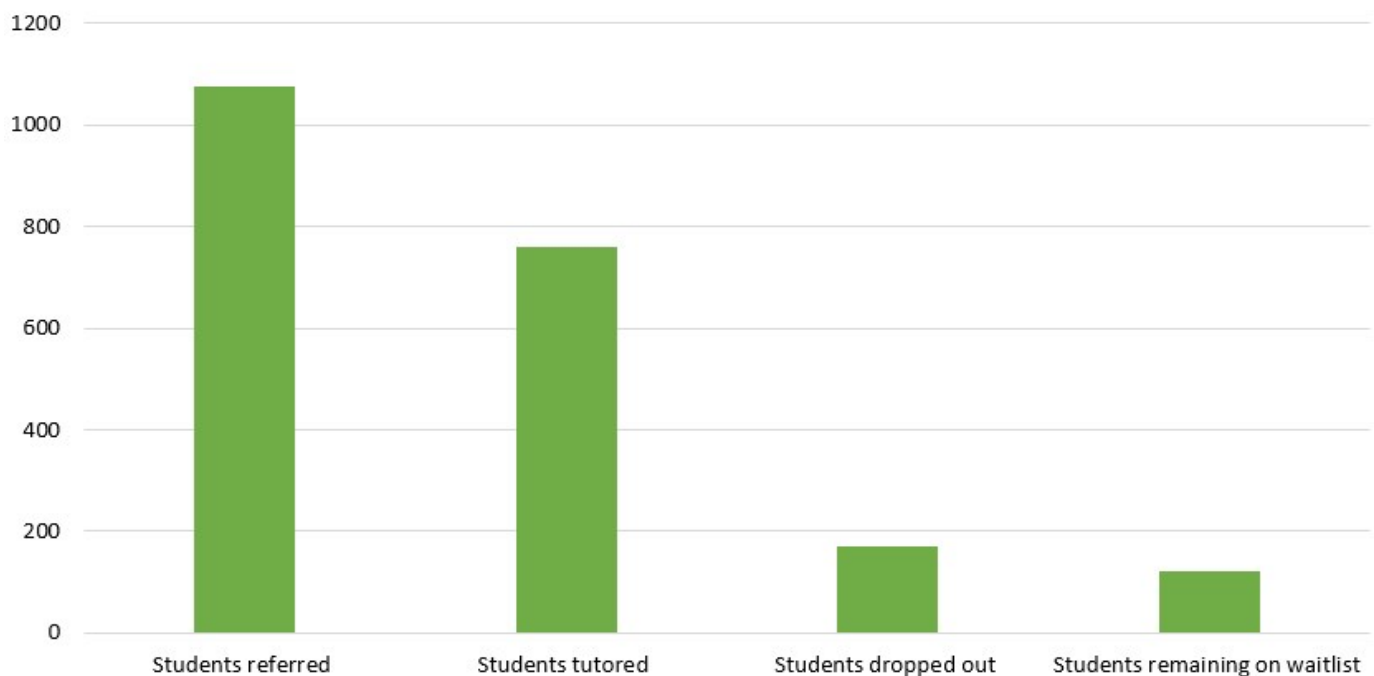
The need for tutoring is greater than our program can accommodate. Resource teachers from across the province have told us they would refer many more students, if the space were available.

In 2015, we received 1077 student referrals:

- 759 students took part in the program
- 172 students dropped out of the program
- 123 students remained on the waitlist

We had a 22% drop out rate, which is 10% lower than previous years. Students drop out of the program for a variety of reasons such as summer vacations, parents who decline to take part in the program, parents we could not contact, and parents who booked a session but never showed up.

STPK Student Information 2015



Program Partners

Since 2001, we have partnered with the Department of Education, Early Years and Culture and the PEI Public Library Service and the to deliver the Summer Tutoring Program to Island students. Both partners have provided this program with tremendous support. Each year the Department of Education has provided training for our tutors and the libraries have provide space for tutoring sessions, excellent resources and tutor training.

Thoughts on the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids from Trina O'Brien Leggott:

For many years now, the PEI Public Library Service has partnered with the PEI Literacy Alliance by providing space for summer tutors to meet with school aged children to engage in play-based literacy activities. Confederation Centre Public Library has hosted anywhere from 5 to 10 summer tutors each year who have met with individual children for an hour a week over the 8 week term.

My over-whelming impression of the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids is how much fun everyone is having! There is a constant sound of laughter, and I get the sense that not only the students are learning, but the tutors are too. Together they make use of library resources and occasionally participate in library programs. Because tutors and students meet in the library, a family member drops students off, sometimes with other children in tow. Sometimes they stay, to read or participate in other programming. Sometimes they may be families who do not visit the library regularly, so we are pleased to welcome them and encourage them to return throughout the year.

Most of the children seem to thrive on the one-on-one attention of an interested adult, including the attendant praise and encouragement they are given. This year we had a student ask if they could come for extra meetings with the tutor!

Trina O'Brien Leggott
Chief Librarian
Confederation Centre Public Library



Education Minister Hal Perry with STPK student Jonah and tutor Jenna MacDonald at the Stratford PEI Public Library.

Program Sponsors

Each year we offer the program free of charge to parents. This is made possible by our sponsors. In 2015, we received funding from:



Service Canada's Summer Jobs Program (\$65,451)



Skills PEI (\$26,832)



PEI Department of Education, Early Years and Culture (\$20,000)



Master Packaging (\$15,000)



Private Donors (\$7,794)



English Language School Board (\$6,500)



Community Foundation of PEI (\$5,000)



Island Press (\$2,300)



Percé program (\$1,875)



Charlottetown Royalty Rotary (\$1,300)



French School Board (\$1000)



PEI Literacy Alliance funds from the PGI 2015 Golf Tournament for Literacy and Post Media Raise-A-Reader (\$14,938.85)

A total of \$153,052.41 was donated by program sponsors. This amount was 91% of the Alliance's cost to run the program. The total cost of STPK this year was \$167,991.26

Federal cuts to the Alliance's core funding means that our literacy and essential skills programs are in jeopardy. When word spread that we could not afford to run STPK at full capacity this year, we were heartened by the support and backing we received. We are very grateful for the continued support from our partners, sponsors and our community. We would like to make special mention of the partnership formed by Master Packaging and the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning (through Skills PEI) who together funded \$41,832 for the first time this year.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for investing in literacy!

Coordinator's Report

I felt both privileged and excited this year to accept the coordinating position for the Summer Tutoring Program. Prior to this, I spent four years tutoring with this program. So, I have seen the program from the tutoring level, which I considered an asset when approaching the position earlier in the year. My prior experience with the Literacy Alliance helped me recognize how important this program is and how beneficial it is for students across the Island to maintain their literacy skills, while fostering a love of learning.

I could not be more proud of the group of tutors we had working with us this summer. We had a great mix of experience come our way, as our tutors had many different skills, backgrounds and experiences. I have heard an abundance of positive responses about our group of tutors this summer from library staff, parents, sponsors and of course, the kids. Through multiple visits to many libraries across the Island this summer, I saw the fun the kids were having and the great work our tutors were doing.

My summer as the coordinator has opened my eyes to how necessary this program is for our Island students. With experience on both sides of the program, as a tutor and now as coordinator, I am passionate about the great work that the Alliance does year round and hope to have more opportunities helping PEI students with their literacy skills and essential skills.



STPK Coordinator, Gina Hyson



Gina with her student Meg in 2014

Staffing

In 2014, we hired 24 tutors. Eight of them were returning tutors from past years. It was necessary for each tutor to be enrolled in a post-secondary program for the upcoming school year and be passionate about teaching children. Many of our tutors were in the midst of completing their bachelor of education, making them excellent mentors for our new tutors.

During their first two weeks tutors took part in three training sessions, met with resource teachers and library staff, and contacted parents. The following eight weeks were spent tutoring. They were responsible for creating unique lesson plans that met each child's learning needs, as specified by their teacher. They were also responsible for creating a positive learning atmosphere that promoted personal development, learning through play and confidence. All of the tutors did an outstanding job.



Back Row: Sarah, Marissa, Julie

Middle Row: Alan, Jordan, Fraser, Lucas, Jenna, Ellie

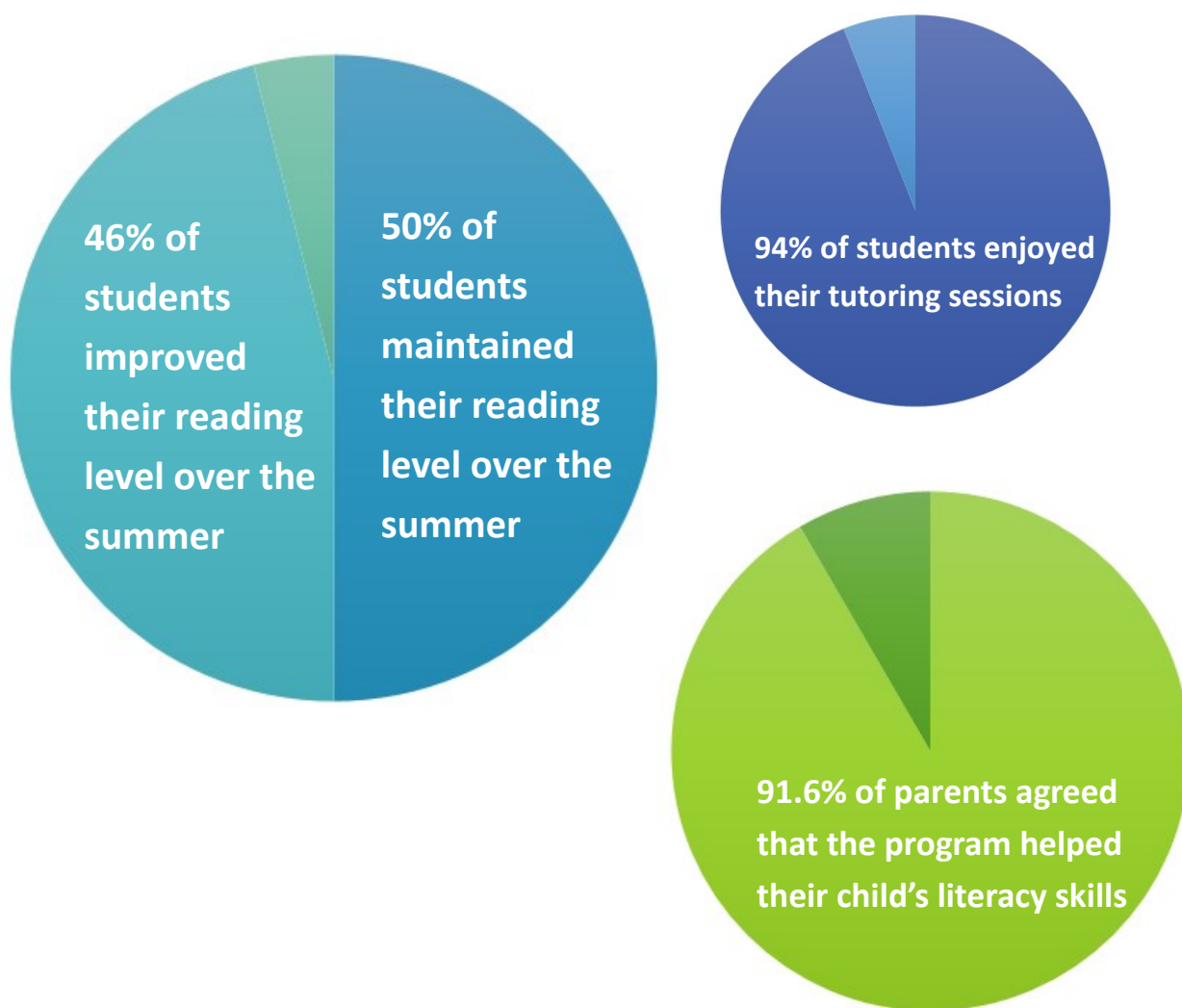
Front Row: Jessica, Courtney, Scott, Sara, Magan, Maggie, Katie, Taylor, Whitney, Krista, Kelsey, Katrina and Marissa

Evaluations Report

Each year we do a full evaluation of the program. We want to know if our program is working and what we can do to improve outcomes for students and tutors. This year in addition to program evaluations from students, parents, teachers and library staff, we added three new evaluations to measure student attitude toward learning, tutor experiential learning and student reading levels. All three of these evaluations were conducted at the beginning and the end of the program.

This evaluation report shows that the program is meeting its objectives of maintaining or improving the literacy skill of children and cultivating a love of learning. Parents, teachers, library staff, tutors and students have all expressed how valuable this program is and wish it could serve more children.

Evaluation Highlights



Reading Levels Evaluation

Research shows that for some children summer vacation often results in setbacks at school. A century of study has shown that students routinely score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they did just a few months earlier, with low-income and at-risk students seeing the biggest drops. Students can lose 2 or more reading levels. Engaging children in literacy activities while they are out of school can help beat the summer slide.

We worked with teachers from 7 schools across PEI to determine whether or not the Summer Tutoring Program helps maintain or improve student reading levels over the summer. Teachers compared the reading records of 98 students before and after the program. All of the students participated in 6 or more tutoring sessions between July and August.

Reading record evaluations showed that:

- 50% of students **maintained** their reading levels over the summer
- 46% of students **improved** their reading levels over the summer
- 4% of students dropped by one or two reading levels

It is clear from these results that the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids does achieve its goal of maintaining or improving the reading levels of students over the summer months.

4. Qu'as-tu appris de toi-même cet été?

J'adore de lire.

4. What did you learn about yourself this summer?

I am a great reader.

Student Attitudinal Evaluation

This year for the first time, we evaluated students' attitude toward learning. Research shows that there is a significant relationship between a student's attitude toward learning and achievement in school. Our program aims to cultivate a love of learning in students by keeping them engaged and building confidence in their skills. We aim to help kids reach their full academic potential.

Tutors evaluated their students' attitude toward learning at the beginning and end of the program. Students were evaluated based on how they approached their tutoring sessions at the beginning, middle and end of the program.

- 69% of students improved on their attitude toward learning
- 31% of students maintained their attitude towards learning
- None of the students regressed in their attitude towards learning.



4. What did you learn about yourself this summer?
lots over s...f like have a tutor
is lot of fun

Tutor Experiential Learning Evaluation

The Summer Tutoring Program provides important experiential learning for university students, especially those in Education Programs. We aim to give post-secondary students relevant work experience to help prepare them for their careers.

This evaluation measured two things; individual learning goals for each tutor and specific teaching skills they possess. We asked tutors set their own learning goals based on which teaching skills they wanted to strengthen or acquire. Each tutor completed these evaluations pre, mid and post program.

- 96% of tutors achieved their learning goals over the course of the program
- 100% of tutors improved on their teaching skills over the course of the program



*“Working for the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids was so satisfying and such a rewarding experience. **The program is so well structured and it enables the kids to learn from a positive play-based environment**”*

Ellen Beck, Summer Tutor

Resource Teacher Evaluations

Every year we receive up to 1200 student referrals completed by resource and homeroom teachers. We know that teachers are invested in the success of their students and appreciate the time and effort they put into ensuring that Island families gain access to our program. We surveyed resource teachers to find out if the program is helping students in the classroom.

- 90% of resource teachers agreed that the program helped maintain students' reading skills over the summer months
- 92% of resource teachers agreed that the program helped improve their students' attitude toward learning

What are teachers saying about the program?

"The tutoring program is a valued intervention that supports many families."

"When students struggle, we are happy when they can maintain their reading level from the spring, over the summer. Often without support these students fall back."

"Thank you for offering the program. We have parents who ask for their child to participate long before the selection date is announced. The fact that there is no cost to this program for the parents is also very appealing and makes it more accessible to all. Keep up the great work!"

Student Evaluations

We survey 509 students and found that 94% enjoyed coming to their tutoring sessions. Students were asked what they learned about themselves this summer, below are some of their responses.



"I'm a good reader"

"Reading is fun"

"I am smarter than I thought I was"

"Libraries are fun for me"

"I like learning on the computer"

"I can add big numbers"

"I learned that school isn't hard when you try your best"

"I learned that I am nice"

"I can be good at school now"

"I'm not bad"

"Reading is not hard"

"There are books about things I like"

"Did you know there are games at libraries?"

"I can go to the library all the time now"



4. What did you learn about yourself this summer?

that i am a
Smart girl

Parent Evaluations

Parents were asked about the organization of the program, tutor professionalism, how the program affect their child’s literacy skills and if they would like to see the program offered year round. We received 371 completed parent surveys.

- 94.9% of parents agreed that the tutoring program was well organized
- 91.6% of parents agreed that they thought the program helped maintain their child's literacy skills over the summer months
- 89.8% of parents agreed that they would like to see the program as a year round opportunity for children

What are parents saying about the program?

“My son has been in this program for three years, he loves it. He loves how it revolves around having fun and it makes reading fun for him while he isn’t in school.”

“One of the most important programs on the Island!”

“My daughter never left the library without a smile on her face.”

“I think this is a hugely beneficial program for Island students. Great Job!”

“Great program, tutor was amazing with my son. He was always so excited to go to his session.”

“Love the program, love the benefits, love the libraries.”

“Tutor was amazing. She had took the time to get to know my child, they established a trusting relationship of reading, writing and playing fun educational games. He was so excited to get to the library every week.”

“Tutor really helped my daughter with her confidence this summer, it usually takes her five minutes to coax her into reading a book to me, but now she wants to show me how well she is doing. This program helped her (and us) so much. Thank you.”

Librarians Evaluation

Librarians were asked to rate the professionalism of the tutor, organization of the program, and if their library was a good setting for the program. All responses to the surveys were overwhelmingly positive.

- 100% of librarians agreed that the tutor at their library was respectful and professional
- 95% of librarians agreed that the program was well organized
- 100% of librarians agreed that the library was a good setting for the program

What are librarians saying about the program?

"I'm looking forward to next year, what an amazing service."

"This is a wonderful program that I would like to see available to more children."

"The program has been well received here in the past and I hope we get one or more tutors at this location again next year."

"From our observations, the tutors do a great job in providing a play-based learning experience for children with a range of literacy learning needs. This is an important program in helping these children maintain interest and ability in reading during the summer break."

Conclusion

There is a strong need for the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids. Parents, teachers, library staff, tutors and students have all expressed how valuable this program is and wish it could serve more children. We have to limit the number of referrals teachers can send to us and each year there are children who remain on the waitlist. Resource teachers in elementary schools across PEI have indicated that there are many more children who could be helped by the Summer Tutoring Program for Kids. Evaluations provide evidence that this program works and there is room for it to grow in size and scope.

One of the goals of this program is to foster a love a learning within each child. This love of learning is important to instill at an early age to build the foundation for life long-learning. We see in the comments from children, parents and teachers that student engagement, confidence and self-awareness are raised by this program.

The Summer Tutoring Program for Kids is cost efficient, considering the benefits gained each year for hundreds of children, and has proven itself as valuable to our community by providing all participants with the opportunity to succeed, develop their skills and cultivate a love of learning.

4. What did you learn about yourself this summer?

That you should never give up.

STPK Budget 2015

Revenue

Dept of Education	Confirmed	Cash	\$	20,000.00
English Lang Schl Brd	Confirmed	Cash	\$	6,500.00
French Lang Schl Brd	Confirmed	Cash	\$	1,000.00
Service Canada	Confirmed	Cash	\$	65,451.00
Charlottetown Royalty Rotary	Confirmed	Cash	\$	1,300.00
Percé program	Confirmed	Cash	\$	1,875.00
Private Donors	Confirmed	Cash	\$	12,794.03
Skills PEI	Confirmed	Cash	\$	26,832.38
Master Packaging	Confirmed	Cash	\$	15,000.00
Island Press	Confirmed	Cash	\$	2,300.00
Total Revenue			\$	153,052.41

Expenses

Tutor Expenses

24 Tutors @12.50/hour for 10 weeks (37.5 hrs/wk)	\$	112,500.00
Mercs @ 12% of salary	\$	13,500.00
Sub Total	\$	126,000.00

Coordination Expenses

1 Alliance staff Coordinator @ \$23.10 for 20 weeks (37.5 hrs/wk) Program prep and Coordinator mentorship	\$	17,325.00
Alliance staff MERCS while working on STPK @12% of salary	\$	2,079.00
1 STPK Coordinator @ \$18/hour for 19 weeks	\$	12,825.00
Coordinator's MERCS @12% of salary	\$	1,539.00
Sub Total	\$	33,768.00

Travel Expenses

Mileage @ .40/km and parking	\$	13,767.36
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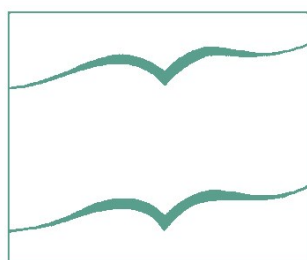
Program Expenses

Training Expenses (4 days)	\$	814.50
10 ipads	\$	3,654.50
Postage, Printing and office supplies	\$	1,978.67
Resource Materials	\$	1,025.59
Telephone/Long Distance/Internet	\$	750.00
Sub Total	\$	8,223.26

Total Expenses	\$	167,991.26
Net Income/Loss	-\$	14,938.85

Want more information?

Contact us



**PEI
Literacy
Alliance**

902-368-3620

info@peiliteracy.ca

www.peiliteracy.ca