

# READY. SET. READ!

FALL 2014 UPDATE



## Ready.Set.READ! Works With Programs to Avoid “Summer Slide”

Did you know that children can lose up to three months of academic progress over the summer?

It is important to keep a child's mind engaged over the summer so they do not fall victim to the “summer slide”.

For the past six years, **Birdsboro Community Memorial Center** has operated Camp Adventure, where children up to age 12 participate in fun and recreational activities over the summer months.

In 2014, Camp Adventure embraced the mission of Ready. Set. READ! and incorporated a reading component into their summer programming to help kids maintain and expand upon their reading skills over the summer months. Over 150 kids participated this year, with each child taking part in the program three times per week for an hour each session.

The Camp Adventure participants read books, learned new vocabulary words, performed Readers Theater shows that coincided with their books, and even had the chance to show off their reading skills by reading to animals at the Animal Rescue League and the Greyhound Therapy dogs! Participants said they enjoyed doing the reading program at Camp because the reading activities were a lot of fun (and they learned a lot at the same time)!

Ready. Set. READ! appreciates the tremendous work of Birdsboro Community Memorial Center and Camp Adventure in helping kids to avoid the “summer slide” and make reading an adventure that lasts all year long!

**The Olivet Boys' and Girls Club's** Bookworms literacy program was implemented during the eight week summer camp of 2014. Approximately 120 students in second and third grade, and 150 in fourth and fifth grade participated in the groups. Ninety minute sessions were offered at eight of the club sites, twice a week throughout the summer. Both the attendance and the kids'enthusiasm increased as the weeks progressed.



The focus of the program was fluency and reading strategies that support comprehension. A wide variety of literature was used to achieve these goals. The older students enjoyed classic books such as Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, along with Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. The younger children read selections from Dan Gutman's *My Weird School Series* and Marjorie Sharmot's *Nate the Great*. In addition to completing a total of six books, the children worked on vocabulary activities, sequencing, Venn diagrams, and predicting outcomes. They also practiced sight words and developed a better understanding of plot elements. They especially enjoyed bring the books to life by reenacting their favorite chapters.

The most rewarding aspect of the Bookworms program was the growth the facilitators observed. Reluctant and struggling readers improved right before our eyes. In addition to becoming more fluent readers, it was evident that many of the children found a new "love" for reading and the many ways it can enhance and improve their lives.

Ready. Set. READ! helps kids read better. Volunteer tutors are needed to work with elementary students for the 2014-15 school year!

Visit [ReadySetReadBerks.org](http://ReadySetReadBerks.org) or call 2-1-1 for more info.

### SAVE THE DATE:

December 2 | 7:00 am | Inn at Reading  
Ready.Set.READ! 2nd Annual Community Forum & Breakfast  
Keynote Speaker: Bill Isler, President, The Fred Rogers Company



United Way of Berks County

Ready.Set.READ!  
is managed by  
United Way of Berks County