

Improving Childhood Literacy

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BAS Capstone Project

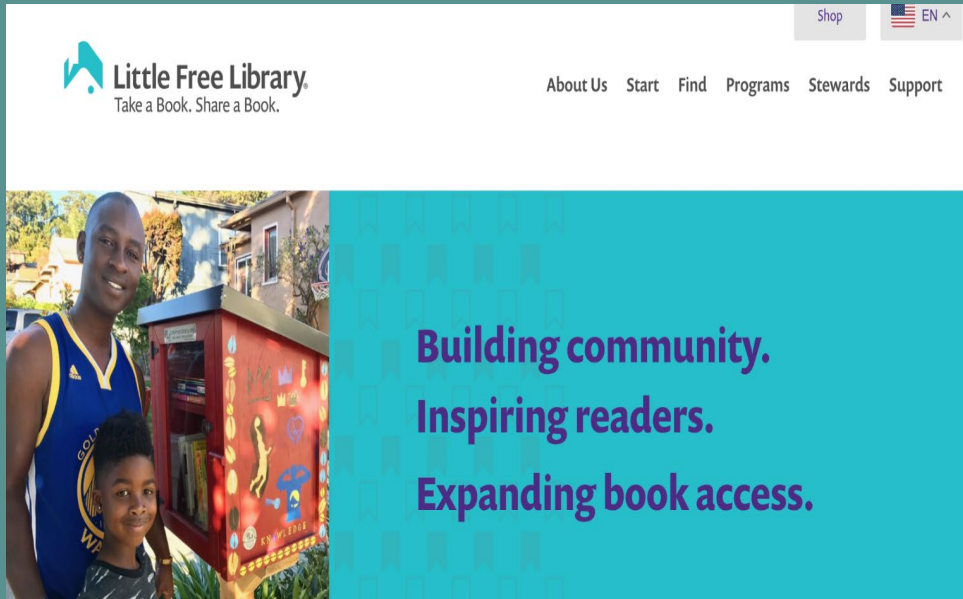




The Problem - Declining Childhood Literacy Rates

- Literacy rates are declining in recent years (Levi and Amirshahi, 2022).
- Lifestyle factors contribute (Kutscher, 2017)
- COVID has had a negative impact on literacy (Wheeler and Hill, 2021)
- 36 million adults lack basic reading skills above 3rd grade level (Regis College, 2023)

Improving Childhood Literacy Through Little Free Libraries



The image shows the top portion of the Little Free Library website. At the top right, there is a 'Shop' button and a language selector for 'EN' with a flag icon. The main navigation menu includes 'About Us', 'Start', 'Find', 'Programs', 'Stewards', and 'Support'. The Little Free Library logo is on the left, featuring a stylized house icon and the tagline 'Take a Book. Share a Book.' Below the navigation is a banner image of a man and a young girl standing next to a red Little Free Library box. The box is decorated with colorful stickers and has the words 'LITTLE FREE LIBRARY' and 'EMPOWER' visible. The background of the banner is a teal color with a pattern of small white icons.

Shop EN ^

Little Free Library.
Take a Book. Share a Book.

About Us Start Find Programs Stewards Support

Building community.
Inspiring readers.
Expanding book access.

Free Little Libraries help to promote literacy in a variety of ways

Children can pick their own reading materials that interest them

They add an element of excitement to visit and see what new books are available that day

They help expand book access (littlefreelibrary.org)

The Organization

The Research

My Free Little Library

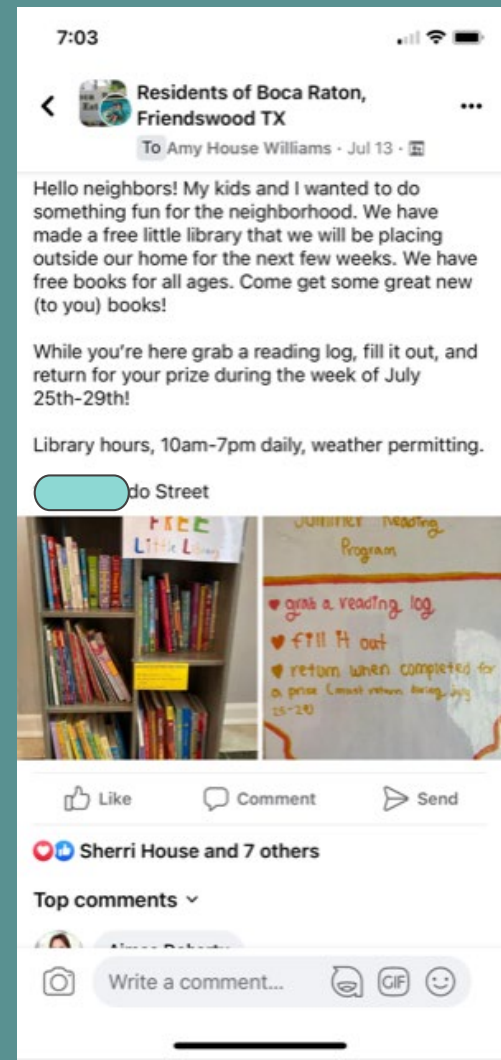


- Began with 81 books donated
- Library placed outside my home daily
- Reading logs located on side of bookshelf in plastic sleeve

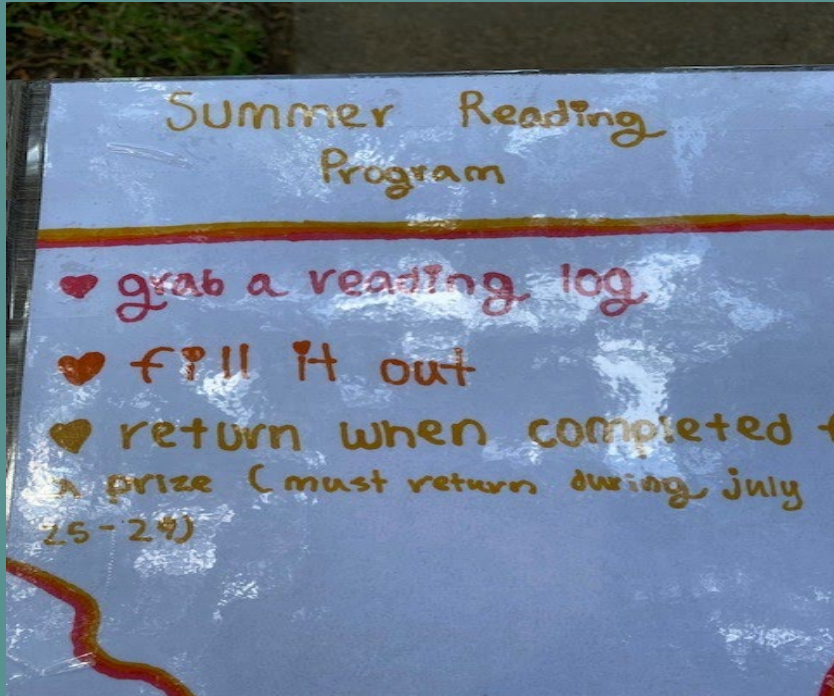


My Free Little Library

- Library was advertised on social media



Summer Reading Program



- Reading program began on July 7th, 2023 and culminated on July 29th
- Participants picked up a log from the library
- Requirements were to read five books and log time spent reading

Summer Reading Program

Summer 2023 Reading Log

Instructions: Fill up the reading log. Once completed, bring back your log and return for a prize between July 25th - July 29th!

Have fun reading!

| BOOK TITLE | TIME SPENT READING | DID YOU LIKE THIS BOOK? |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

What was your favorite book that you read?



- Copy of logs given out at the library daily
- Logs were available for the duration of the project
- Participants returned for small prizes when they deposited their completed log



Results

Little Free Library ☆ 📁 ☁

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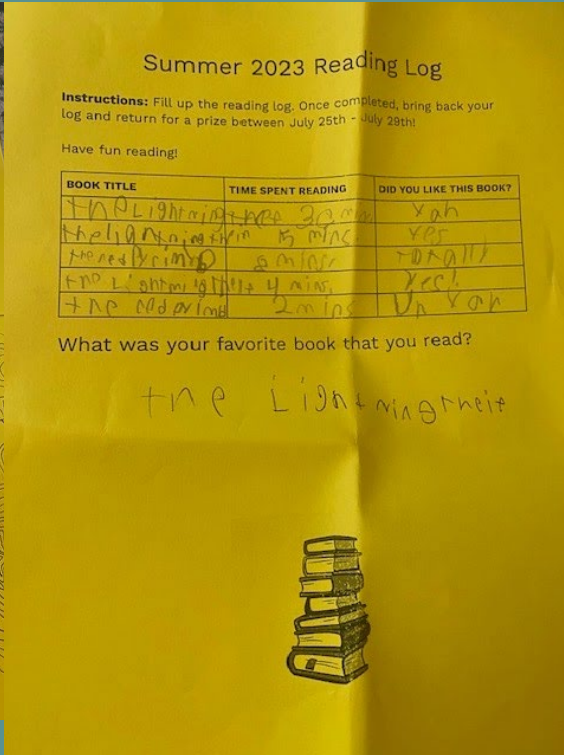
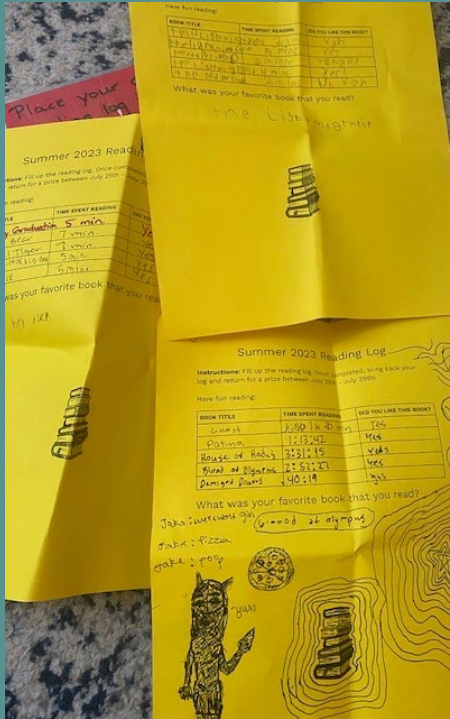
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| DATE | # OF BOOKS AM | # OF BOOKS PM | BOOKS GIVEN |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 7/7/23 | 81 | 77 | 4 |
| 7/8/23 | 77 | 75 | 2 |
| 7/9/23 | 75 | 75 | 0 |
| 7/10/23 | 75 | 72 | 3 |
| 7/11/23 | 72 | 70 | 2 |
| 7/12/23 | CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER | | |
| 7/13/23 | | | |
| 7/14/23 | 70 | 69 | 1 |

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 7/24/23 | CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER | | |
| 7/25/23 | 50 | 46 | 4 |
| 7/26/23 | 46 | 43 | 3 |
| 7/27/23 | 43 | 40 | 3 |
| 7/28/23 | 40 | 37 | 3 |
| 7/29/23 | 38 | 38 | 0 |
| | | TOTAL: | 43 books given |

- Spreadsheet used to track number of books given daily
- Total # of books given: 43

Results



- 5 Summer Reading Program participants
- Prizes given
- 3 people responded to feedback survey

Results



- Prizes given out from July 25th to July 29th for successful completion of reading log



The Outcome

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

— Vincent Van Gogh