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United for Literacy
Littératie Ensemble

Student Success Programs for Children and Youth

2025
National Report



Thank you!

Thanks to the continued support of our donors, community partners, volunteers, and staff, United for Literacy's Student Success Programs keep children discover the joy of reading and learning all-year round!



Fredericton, NB



Halifax, NS



Montréal, QC



Waterloo, ON



Winnipeg, MB



Saskatoon, SK



Grande Prairie, AB



Vancouver, BC

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Throughout the year, online and in-person Student Success Programs encourage children and youth to develop their reading and learning skills. Trained volunteers support young learners in one-to-one and small group tutoring sessions using a student-centered approach to build foundational skills. At homework clubs and after-school programs, enthusiastic volunteers offer schoolwork assistance and encourage curiosity from young learners.

Online, Community- and Classroom-Based Programs

This year, the Student Success Programs supported children and youth online and in person in schools, libraries, shelters, and community centres.

These programs are supported by trained volunteer tutors. The primary models for these programs are:

- **One-to-one and small group tutoring** (online and in person).
- **Homework clubs and after-school programs.**
- **That support early literacy and encourage a love of books.**

For 2024–2025 programming, we're proud to report

6,918

children supported in learning throughout the year

1,665

volunteer placements were filled by enthusiastic, trained community members

8,855

new, FREE books and 1,460 activity kits were distributed to support learning at home



After-school reading at the Pen Pals program (BC)

PROGRAM IMPACT

Learners are asked to complete self-evaluations and open-ended reflections at the beginning and end of their Student Success Program. This helps us see the impact of the program, as reported by the participants themselves. Not only do we see how much their skills improved, but we also see how their confidence and self-esteem grew over the program.

Quantitative Analysis

We survey learners' parents/caregivers, educators, and tutors to help us understand the strengths of our programming from their perspective. Here's what we heard about the 2024-/2025 Student Success Programs:

LEARNERS

- **96%** of learners said that the **Student Success Program** helped them.
- **94%** of learners said their **reading skills** improved.
- **90%** said their **writing skills** improved.
- **85%** said their **math skills** improved.
- **80%** said their **computer skills** improved.

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

- **82%** of parents surveyed said that they noticed a difference in their child's communication skills.
- **84%** noticed improvements in **reading**.
- **67%** noticed improvements in **writing**.
- **76%** noticed improvements in **math**.
- **76%** noticed improvements in **computer** skills.
- **90%** noticed improved **confidence** in their child.

EDUCATORS

- **82%** of educators surveyed said they noticed improvements in students' **overall literacy**.
- **87%** said they noticed improvements in **reading**.
- **77%** said they noticed improvements in **writing**.
- **80%** said they noticed improvements in **math**.
- **88%** said they noticed improvement in **communication** skills.
- **98%** agreed that the United for Literacy program helps them be **more effective** in their work with children.

TUTORS

- **83%** of tutors said they notice an improvement in learners' **reading**.
- **80%** said they notice an improvement in **writing**.
- **86%** said they notice an improvement in **math**.
- **92%** said they notice an increase in learners' **confidence**.
- **92%** said they notice an improvement in **communication** skills.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

When reviewing the open-ended responses from the Children and Youth Surveys for Parents, Tutors, and Educators, the following themes emerged:

- **Skill Development:** Learners are demonstrating success and acquiring new skills.
- **Confidence & Engagement:** Increased confidence and excitement about UFL programs.
- **Positive Relationships:** Supportive environments and strong connections with adults and peers.
- **Program Impact:** Parents and tutors report satisfaction; educators note improved school experiences.
- **Learning From Feedback**

Along with program observations, we received feedback from tutors, learners, educators, and parents about our programs and training.

Here's what we've heard:

- **More Resources:** Tutors, learners, and educators asked for more learner plans, games, tools, and worksheets to keep children engaged.
- **Deepened Programming:** Longer and more frequent sessions, including digital skills, interactive activities, and writing practice.
- **More Training & Communication:** Tutors want more training and ongoing support; parents want more updates from staff.

In response

- We launched The Hive resource library: a central digital location where everyone can contribute resources that they have deemed valuable and useful resource for their work.
- We are expanding our volunteer training to incorporate video modules and a tutor toolkit. This clear guidance will help volunteers feel better equipped to support learners across reading, writing, and numeracy.

We will continue to learn from educators, tutors, partners, and learners, and we will keep improving with the support from our partners across the country—one learner at a time!

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Since 2022, United for Literacy has been working to ensure that our commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion is reflected in every area of our work, no matter how small. We want learners and volunteers to feel safe, supported, included, and well-equipped, and we encourage staff to foster inclusive working and learning environments.



Afterschool learning at Kent Road School (MB)

United for Literacy seeks to understand how well our Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles are applied nationwide. To gain insight, we included a JEDI survey in our evaluation process and asked our tutors, partners, parents, and learners to tell us about their experiences, as they relate to questions of belonging. Here's what they said:

- **98%** of our tutors agreed that United for Literacy's programs uphold the values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- **99%** of tutors agreed they have the necessary skills to apply JEDI principals and that their training has been comprehensive.
- **97%** of parents agreed that the Student Success Programs create a welcoming environment for their children and community.
- **97%** of our learners said they felt comfortable when attending the Student Success Programs;
- **95%** said that they felt seen and accepted in the Student Success Programs.
- **100%** of our community partners agree that United for Literacy programs are inclusive.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Sandra's (Community Coordinator) workshop at Maat Youth Center was an incredible experience for our tutors. She shared practical strategies and creative approaches that will help our team better support youth in their learning. The session was engaging, informative, and left everyone feeling more confident and equipped for the school year. Her impact will definitely be seen in how our tutors help students thrive academically."

Community Partner, Toronto

"My daughter's confidence in reading has improved dramatically. Knowing this program exists is a huge support as a parent. Tutoring can be hard to navigate and expensive. This program makes it accessible and easy for the children who need extra help."

Parent, Nova Scotia

"In my future work as an educator, I will carry these lessons with me. I want to be someone who not only supports learning but also fosters confidence and belonging. I now have an even deeper commitment to approaching each student as an individual with their own story, challenges, and strengths. This placement has solidified my belief that empathy and flexibility are not just nice additions to education—they are essentials."

Volunteer, Waterloo

"I had an amazing time reading to the children, I was impressed by their level of interest and engagement while listening to the stories and answering questions."

Volunteer, Quebec

"I come to Homework Club everyday for so many reasons. I first heard about HW club from my older sister. She told me how great HC is and the benefits I can get from coming. I can do homework or study, eat food and talk to my peers and Ms Simonson (volunteer tutor) about anything I need."

Learner, BC

"I have two students who meet with their volunteer twice a week and it is their favourite part of the day. The volunteers and coordinator are so friendly and make the students feel comfortable to learn and make mistakes. My students have become more confident in their learning, especially in their reading."

Educator, Alberta

"As a parent of a child with learning differences, I was looking for a tutor who could meet my son where he was and help him thrive. The one-on-one tutoring sessions have exceeded my expectations. The tutor's customized approach, patience, and deep understanding of my child's needs have been incredible. He's now more focused, motivated, and progressing faster than I ever expected. I am beyond grateful for this support."

Parent, Manitoba