

STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

2026
National Report



EST. 1899
United for Literacy
Littératie Ensemble



1 in 8 children are not reading at grade level.
That's more than 1 million children.

Canada's Literacy Gap Needs Urgent Action

Why it matters?



Literacy builds strong foundations

in reading, writing, and learning



Literacy supports confidence and curiosity

helping children and youth develop a lifelong love of learning



Literacy opens doors to opportunity

shaping educational success, inclusion, and future possibilities

Why now?

Rapid technological change

- Digital literacy and future-ready skills are increasingly important in school, work, and everyday life.

A changing world

- Critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills help children and youth navigate a rapidly changing world.

Growing economic pressures

- Poverty and financial pressures continue to affect children and families. Strong literacy skills can help open pathways to education, opportunity, and greater economic security.

Lifelong learning starts early

- Foundational literacy skills developed in the early years build confidence and create a strong foundation for continued learning throughout life.

Why United For Literacy?

We offer individualized support at no cost to learners.

- Online and in-person, 1-1 or small group literacy programs across Canada

We co-design literacy solutions with communities

- Partnering with local organizations to respond to needs

We are flexible and consistent with our approach

- Supporting individuals, families, and local literacy systems through regular programming, meeting where the learners are at!

We build foundational and future-ready skills

- Reading, writing, numeracy, digital literacy, financial literacy, English as an Additional Language (EAL), and French as an Additional Language (FAL) and more!

How we work

We work in partnership with communities

- Staff, volunteers, and interns collaborate with community organizations to respond to needs

We strengthen local literacy services

- Build and support community-based literacy programs

We build community capacity

- Expand resources, skills, and local support systems

We offer wrap-around supports

- Provide healthy snacks, bus tickets, and day-care support, and more!

Where we work

Across Canada

Urban, rural, and remote communities

Every place is a learning place

Wherever people learn, connect and build their skills

Every learner has a goal. We help them reach it.



**Our
vision**

All people in Canada have the literacy skills they need to achieve their potential.



**We have a
mission**

Each day, we transform lives and strengthen communities through literacy.



How we serve them

Delivery Format



In-Person
69%



Distance
15%



Hybrid
16%

How does Community Partnership work?

Partners connect us with the learners, and often provide us with space to run the program. This reduces barriers to access for learners. And helps run programs where learners are most comfortable.

Where we work

We partner with a wide range of organizations and community spaces across Canada, including:

Libraries · Community centres · Indigenous organizations · Newcomer and settlement agencies · Family resource centres · Youth-serving agencies · Housing providers · Health organizations · Shelters · Schools · Daycares · Alternative schools · And other community and educational organizations

Our 2025–26 Numbers



10,430
Learners Reached



885
volunteers Hired and Trained
to Work with Learners

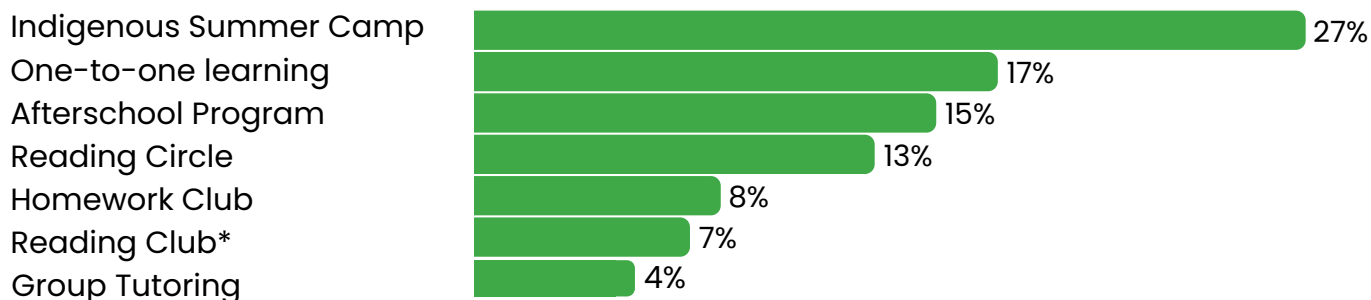


20,310
Free Books Distributed



5,021
Activity Kits Distributed

Our Programs



*Converted Reading Tent

The remaining 9% of programming includes classroom support, family learning, camps, and numeracy programs.

Innovation this year

United for Literacy is placing greater focus on programs that provide a measurably higher impact on learners' literacy development and learning outcomes.

These programs provide more frequent, consistent and individualized support, with a strengths-based approach that builds on each learner's existing skills, interests and goals. When possible, programs also use smaller tutor-to-learner ratios, allowing volunteers to provide more tailored support and respond to each learner's needs. This approach helps learners build literacy skills, confidence and greater enjoyment of learning.

Why are High-Impact Programs Important?

High-Impact Programs are designed to give learners the focused and consistent support they need to make meaningful progress. They prioritize:

- Trained tutors and instructors who use evidence-informed, learner-centred approaches.
- Small groups or individualized support that allow for more focused instruction.
- Regular, sustained engagement so learners have enough time and opportunities to build their skills.
- Measurable learning outcomes to help us understand and demonstrate learner progress.
- Strong partnerships that expand access to high-impact literacy programming.

Our Impact

After participating in United for Literacy's Student Success Programs for Children and Youth, learners report not only improved educational outcomes but also report increased confidence and increased enjoyment of learning. For many learners who experience barriers, frustration, or discouragement in educational settings, developing a more positive outlook on learning can be foundational. In this way, some of the program outcomes reflect a deeper shift, where learners begin to see learning as something they feel able and willing to continue beyond our programs.

Here is what the learners reported in 2025-26:



93%

Improved Reading



91%

Improved Writing



95%

Improved Math



88%

Enjoyed Learning

Responses to "Did you enjoy learning?"

● Yes, very ● Yes ● No ● Not at all

43.9%

44.1%

8.4%

3.6%

When surveyed, learners felt:



99% Safe and Comfortable

United for Literacy is committed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). Read more about the commitment [here](#).

Continuous program improvements

Last year, we revised our self-assessments and surveys to make them shorter, clearer, and easier to fill out. These changes reduce the burden on staff while improving data quality and consistency.

Testimonials



Joining Math Club helped me build strong math skills and feel confident in class. I learned new strategies that make solving problems easier. I am doing much better in school because of it.

Learner - Grade 7, Winnipeg - Math homework club (online)

Thank you!

United for Literacy's children and youth programs are possible through the ongoing support of our funders, community partners, dedicated volunteers, and staff. Thanks to these generous contributions, children and youth have more opportunities to improve their literacy, digital, financial, workplace, and basic skills.



United for Literacy believes in literacy for all people. That's why we promote reading, writing, and math for individuals of all ages, as well as more advanced skills like financial literacy and digital literacy. Reading breaks down barriers and opens up the world to ideas and opportunities. You can find out more by visiting our website: www.unitedforliteracy.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, CONTACT US:

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35 Jackes Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1E2

CANADA
1-800-555-6523
information@unitedforliteracy.ca

While our headquarters is listed here, United for Literacy is active across Canada. Contact us to be connected with the right person in your province.

Charitable Registration Number
1070 8445 RR0001



VISION

All people in Canada have the literacy skills they need to achieve their potential.



MISSION

Each day, we transform lives and strengthen communities through literacy.



PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES

- Philosophy of Student-Centred Learning
- Reconciliation
- Inclusion and Accessibility
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Agility and Learning



PEOPLE SERVED

People and communities across Canada facing systemic barriers to achieving literacy objectives.



Agréé
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Accredited

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