

YLC 2010-2011 RESOURCES FOR LEARNING PROGRAM RESULTS BRIEF

In YLC's 2010-2011 Resources for Learning (RFL) Program, students were impacted in meaningful ways academically and beyond. Research based tools were used to gather information on the RFL program's effectiveness in math and communication arts achievement and in positive youth development outcomes for our children. Parental and student satisfaction and perceptions were also assessed.

YLC students made great gains in math and in reading by the end of the RFL academic year:

- 1) Of the 77 total students who completed all required benchmark tests, 56 (73%) increased their math scores and 55 (71%) increased their reading scores by the end of the academic year.
- 2) Three student groups increased in math by one full grade performance level by the end of the academic year: the 3rd, 4th and 6th grade groups saw an average increase from "below basic" to "basic" in math.
- 3) Three student groups demonstrated an average increase of one grade performance level in reading: the 4th, 5th, and 7th grade groups increased from "basic" to "proficient" by the end of the academic year.
- 4) The number of students scoring proficient or higher in math increased from 11 (14.3%) in the beginning of the year to 31 (40%) by the end of the year.
- 5) The number of students scoring proficient or higher in reading increased from 36 (47%) to 57 (74%) by the end of the year.

Students in the RFL program attained core positive youth development indicators (within the domains of positive life choices, life skills, and sense of self) as a result of participating in the program:

- 1) Over 80% of surveyed students reported that participating in YLC keeps them away from negative influences such as violence and fighting (positive life choices).
- 2) 84% of surveyed students expressed that they are better at working on teams (life skills).
- 3) 90% indicated that they are better at setting goals and solving problems (life skills).
- 4) 87% of students expressed that they learned things they did not think they could do before

participating in the RFL program (sense of self).

- 5) 90% of surveyed students say that they feel better about the future as a result of participating in YLC programs (sense of self).

Students and parents value the RFL program and agree that participation has been beneficial:

- 1) 100% of YLC parents interviewed indicated that their children have improved academically and/or socially as a result of participating in the RFL program. Parents cite the effectiveness of the staff, academic gains, and novel academic and social experiences among the highlights of the RFL program.
- 2) 87% of surveyed students feel well-supported academically and socially in the RFL program.
- 3) 56% of interviewed students have noticed positive changes as a result of the RFL program, including increased confidence, improved communication skills, and new career goals.

CONCLUSION

YLC met its overarching goal to help students in the 2010-2011 RFL Program increase their math and reading scores, and students and parents have reported gains beyond academics. There is an association between participation in YLC programming and increased academic achievement levels among students, as well as increased attainment of positive youth development outcomes like "sense of self" and "life skills".

YLC staff members and supporters aim to help all students in the RFL Program achieve academic proficiency in math and in communication arts, and to expose them to experiences that will help them grow to be successful adults. Assessment results over the 2010-2011 academic year show that YLC students are on their way to realizing these goals.