

2017-18 END OF YEAR REPORT

# READY, SET, READ - TACOMA!



Communities In Schools' Ready, Set, Read - Tacoma! (RSR-T) is a program for preschool-aged children and their families in the Tacoma School District. In the 2017-18 school year, this program was delivered at 31 Head Start, preschool, and community childcare centers in Tacoma. This year the program had record-breaking participation, with a total of 703 families participating (up from 286 last year) and over 12,000 books read, with 186 children completing the program to become Ready, Set, Read Champions.

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# PROMOTING KINDERGARTEN READINESS



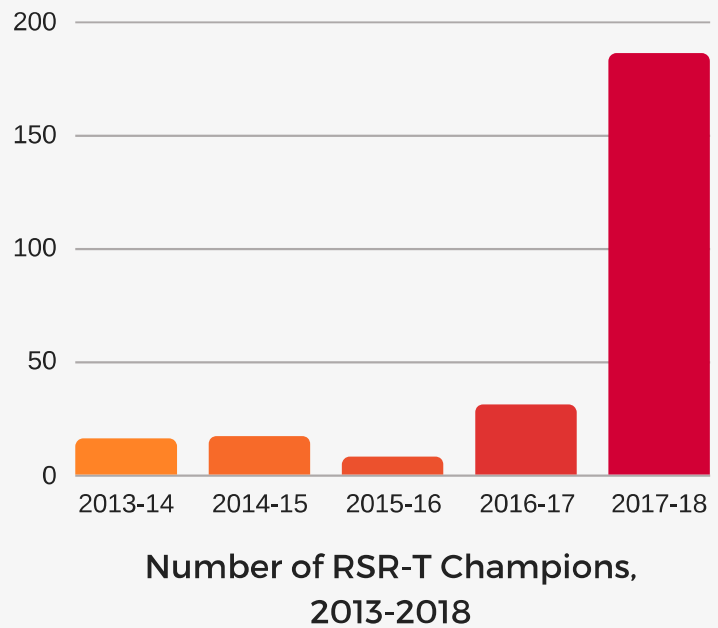
## HOW READY, SET, READ - TACOMA! WORKS

This program aims to promote kindergarten readiness by encouraging family engagement and emphasizing the importance of early reading skills. We partner with TPS Teacher Librarians who lead story times with children in their Head Start or preschool program. Families can then check out the books, which have built-in tips for reading to children and activities they can do at home. Children receive incentives for every ten books they read, up to 50 at which point they are a Ready, Set, Read Champion. Every Champion receives a personalized READ poster, a backpack full of books, and a medal, and their family is invited to our end of year celebration event where they are recognized in front of their peers and community.

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# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family engagement is crucial to early learning, which is why the RSR-T program includes tips for reading to children and activities in every book. According to EdSource, "reading aloud is the best way to help children develop word mastery and grammatical understanding." It also helps set the stage for parents to feel more connected to their child's education. Family engagement was extremely strong this year as evidenced by the huge jump in the number of students completing the program.



## COMMUNITY

Volunteers are also essential to the success of the Ready, Set, Read program. We owe our gratitude to the volunteers who gave 474 hours of time to the program this year, helping Teacher Librarians with story times and book check-outs. Their support and time is invaluable to this program.





# OUR PARTNERS

This program would not be possible without the participation of our partners. First, special thanks to our most vital partner, Tacoma Public Schools. We'd also like to thank the Discuren Foundation and the Baker Foundation for their financial support.



Ready, Set, Read also relies on partners to provide supplies such as donated books, art supplies, and other materials needed for programming. Thank you to the following sponsors for hosting a book drive or donating materials:



Thank you to the below sponsors for providing children with incentives and prizes to keep reading!



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# SUCCESS STORIES



**OLIVER & BECKA  
(MOM)**  
LISTER ELEMENTARY

*Ready, Set, Read - Tacoma programs this summer were such an awesome way for my son to meet who he'll be in school with soon, for a homemaker like me to meet more parents in the neighborhood and for both of us to enjoy new academic activities together!*



**LAUREN**  
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY  
VOLUNTEER

*I loved getting to spend those mornings with children, allowing them to engage in developmentally appropriate activities that will help these students be ready to begin school. Additionally, I felt like I was helping provide more equity in access to education at the pre-school level.*



**ADELAIDE &  
KATHERINE (MOM)**  
BIRNEY ELEMENTARY

*We love it, we're having a great time. Adelaide learned the days of the week through a song, and she also learned some sign language. Her favorite activities are painting and "dirt" [sensory development station].*



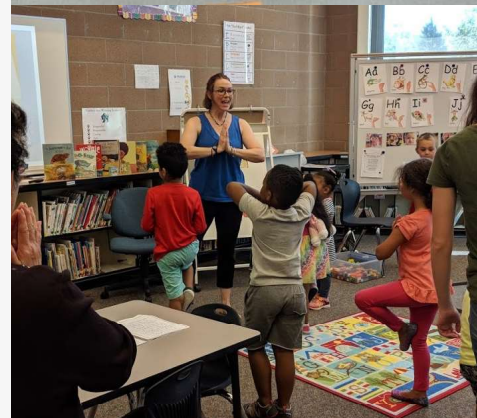
# READY, SET, READ - TACOMA! SUMMER PROGRAM

Our free summer program offers fun for everyone! The program was offered at four school sites and focused on developing kindergarten readiness skills including counting, sorting objects, fine and gross motor skills, and social interaction. We enrolled 111 children this year. Story times happened every week, with children completing 16 books by the end of the program and additional book check-out was available at all sites should they choose to read more. Parents and family members were encouraged to attend and participate along with their child.

We had the support of three community partners for the summer program this year, with Tacoma Public Utilities hosting a book drive to collect books for a book giveaway at the end of the program. Hello, Cupcake and Round Table Pizza also contributed food and a venue for the end-of-summer celebration event that happened on August 28th. We were also fortunate to have the support of 14 volunteers who collectively contributed 245.5 hours to help prepare for and execute the program.

## Feedback from our Summer Program:

*As far as the Ready, Set, Read program here at Jefferson, my son David and my daughter Abigail participated and I'm happy to report my experience was a very positive one! I highly recommend the program to anyone considering it. The reason I wanted to come and participate was because my daughter is preparing to enter kindergarten and I felt she needed a little more preparation than Jump Start. I feel very satisfied with how the program was run and especially the level of engagement that the staff had with my children. My daughter is definitely more prepared to enter kindergarten!*



**-Brittany Furgason**  
Parent, Jefferson Elementary