

RAISING READERS, A SUMMER AT A TIME

Summertime is a chance to play and to grow, and for children at Marvell and Elaine that includes reading and learning.

An hourlong public television special about the Arkansas Campaign for Grade Level Reading to have every third grader in the state reading proficiently by 2020 focused on several innovative learning programs, one of which was the summer program run jointly by the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center and the Marvell-Elaine School District. The TV special, sponsored by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, recognized the program as a model for the state.



Tyron Tate of Marvell talks on camera about his love of reading

Small children, particularly disadvantaged ones, tend to lose both skills and motivation over a summer break, and the BGACDC program is intended to hold that knowledge and actually expand reading comprehension during the summer.

Stephanie Hoskins, a literacy teacher at Marvell Elementary School, said children in the summer reading program tended to be better motivated and to learn at a faster pace during the regular school year and to excel long afterward.

"The BGACDC program at Marvell and Elaine is a great example of a community-based learning program that works collaboratively to find ways to engage children to use all the resources that are available to them," said Laveta Wills-Hale, Network Coordinator of the Arkansas Out of School Network.

The program can be viewed at <http://www.ar.glr.net/raising-arkansas-readers>.



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