

BRIGHT FUTURES SHINE BECAUSE OF SUMMER LEARNING

Without access to enriching learning opportunities, many students—especially those already facing obstacles—fall behind over the summer. Research shows that students from underserved communities can lose two or more months of reading skills each year, and over time, these losses stack up, pushing them further below grade-level expectations. But with the right support, summer can be a season of growth, confidence, and academic momentum.

United Way of Story County partners with local programs to provide hands-on learning, daily reading support, and healthy meals—helping kids build confidence and stay on track. Together, we’re creating brighter futures, one summer at a time.

2025 IMPACT



1,157 youth participated in 10 summer learning programs



88% of youth surveyed reported a positive attitude about school



38% of Story County students are eligible for free-or-reduced-price lunch



23% of 3rd graders didn't meet reading benchmarks

Learn more about summer learning at:
uwstory.org/out-of-school-learning

2026 Summer Learning Program Investments

The Arc of Story County: All Aboard for Kids
ACPC Day Care
Boys and Girls Clubs of Story County
Camp Fire: Summer Camps
Girl Scouts: Leadership Experience
Prairie Flower: School Age Summer Camps
Raising Readers: Summer Reading Buddies
The Community Academy: Summer Experience
University Community Childcare: Summer Enrichment
YSS: Summer Enrichment

Real Learning, Real Relationships, Real Impact

The Arc of Story County offers weekly All Aboard for Kids camps. Kids of all ages love to build relationships while learning something new each day. Last summer, fifteen-year-old Rebeckah joined for the first time, building countless skills and quickly gaining confidence. “It helps me get to know people and helps with social skills.” Rebeckah is enthusiastically “making friends better this summer,” while feeling genuinely welcomed by peers and staff.

Even as a rising sophomore, Rebeckah is already learning and preparing for careers. From practicing handshakes and navigating public transportation to participating in workplace tours around the community, students are opening their horizons. The kids are busy creating a product, logo, and marketing for their business, “Lots O’ Pots,” and energetically selling hand-painted flowerpots.



UNITED WAY
Story County