

2023 Spring Report

Eakin Elementary

This spring, F3 returned to Eakin Elementary for a 10-week Soccer & Literacy afterschool program in conjunction with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. The program consisted of 45 minutes of soccer play and 45 minutes of reading that provided opportunities for 3rd-5th grade students to read together and engage in conversations to build academic skills and peer relationships. 24 students participated.

Eakin Elementary students participated in group readings with book two in the Born to Play soccer novel series: School of Skill. They engaged in discussions about leadership, empathy, and respecting others.

Students also worked in small groups and 1-1 with F3 Program Managers on reading fluency and comprehension skills through structured literacy activities aligned with the Science of Reading designed to facilitate:

- Using the text to support claims and build background knowledge
- Repeated readings to increase exposure to and comfort with text
- Foster a supportive learning environment to build confidence

Program Snapshot

450

Minutes each of soccer and reading

240

Adult-student interactions

15

Hours to build peer relationships outside of the school day



Number of words read

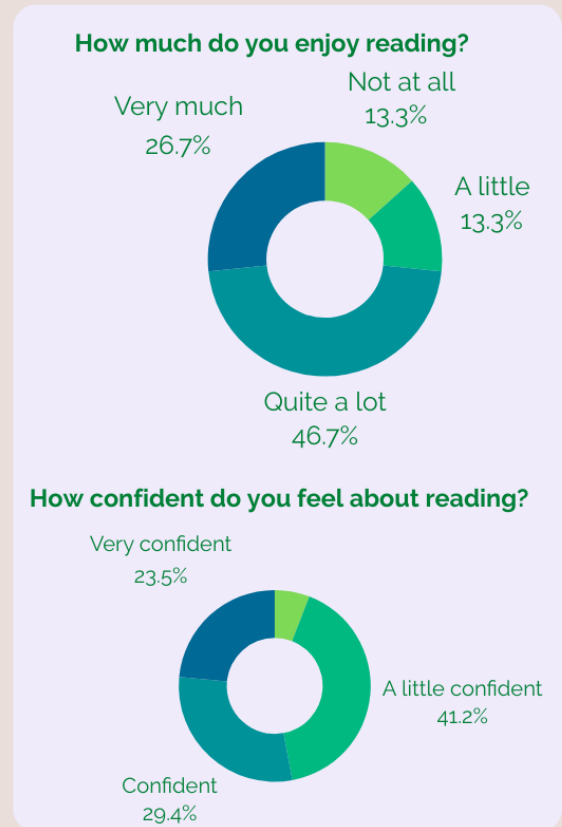
14,160

Reader Engagement and Self-Efficacy Survey (n = 16)

Table 1

Item	M	SD	Min	Max
I think reading is cool	3.60	0.51	0	4
I have fun reading books	3.65	0.54	0	4
I think reading is hard	3.27	0.57	1	4
I am proud that I can read	2.13	0.55	1	4
I can't find interesting things to read	3.44	0.48	1	4
I like to encourage my friends to read	2.59	0.58	0	4
It's easy to find books that aren't too hard to read	3.12	0.55	1	4

Figure 1



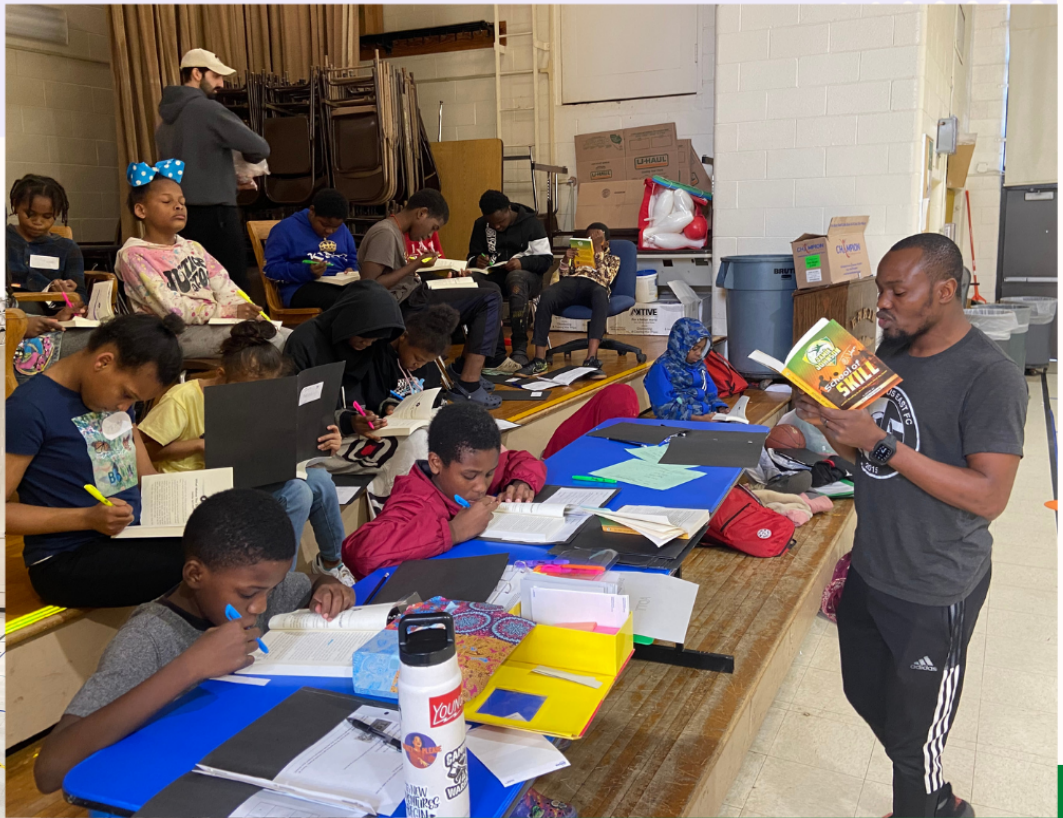
Before and after the 10-week program, we collected surveys to examine students' attitudes toward reading. The survey consisted of reader engagement (i.e., How much do you enjoy reading?) and self-efficacy questions (i.e., How confident do you feel about reading?) to capture students' motivations for reading. Findings from the post-survey above indicate that students who participated in the Soccer and Literacy afterschool program tended to enjoy reading even though they had mixed feelings of confidence in their reading abilities. Students also perceived reading as challenging and reported that they often struggle to find books on their reading level. Compared to the pre-survey, students were 22% more likely to say they enjoyed reading quite a lot and 37% more likely to say they had fun reading books by the end of the program. In addition, we collected comprehension progress monitoring data after each lesson and found that students performed significantly higher on comprehension benchmarks from Lesson 1 to Lesson 10.

In Fall 2024, F3 Program Managers will focus on differentiating instruction by highlighting students' interests and experiences during small groups to continue to bolster confidence when engaging in reading activities. Moreover, we hope to collect fluency data and administrative data in collaboration with the school to better understand the students we serve. We will continue to conduct pre-post surveys to examine student perceptions about reading before and after the program.

Table 1 Note: Students were asked to answer how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statements. Responses ranged from 0 = Strongly disagree to 4 = Strongly agree.

"It's a fantastic book series to read. Yes, you will learn about soccer, but more importantly, you will learn about the life lessons you will face during your adolescent and teen years."

-Mwalik Ahmed, F3 Program Manager



Thank you Eakin
Elementary and
Columbus
Recreation and
Parks Department!



leiah@finalthirdfoundation.org



www.finalthirdfoundation.org



2404 E. Main St., Columbus OH 43209



614-300-6653