

SUMMER LEARNING | Program Quality Intervention

The Summer Learning Institute Take It Back—Achievement Gap Walk

Background

This physical demonstration shows reading achievement of low-income and middle-income students who did not participate in a summer learning program.

Choose two volunteers; assign one to represent a child from a middle-income home (MI) and a child from a low-income home (LI). Explain that the volunteers must walk “heel to toe” during the demonstration.

Time Estimate	Activity Description
Summer before Kindergarten	MI, LI stand side by side LI take one step back <i>(this shows that LI youth start school behind)</i>
Kindergarten Year	MI, LI take 8 steps forward
Summer	MI = 1/2 step forward LI -2 steps back
First Grade	MI, LI take 8 steps forward
Summer	MI = 1/2 step forward LI -2 steps back

What is happening during the school year?

Both MI and LI are learning at the same rate. It is in summer where the gap widens. For disadvantaged kids, school is the main source for their academic learning.

Time Estimate	Activity Description
Second Grade	MI, LI take 8 steps forward
Summer	MI = 1/2 step forward LI -2 steps back