

The ILM Program: We cultivate intrinsic learning motivations (ILMs)!

The dream stuff

Imagine a school where you only took classes that motivated you. Where the only requirement from 8am-3pm Monday-Friday was to learn about whatever motivated you. Sound like a cool school? This is what we're building at 10 Books A Home (10BH). We believe this type of approach results in learning faster, more, and deeper than traditional approaches. We call this educational approach "cultivating intrinsic learning motivations" (ILMs).



The sad stuff

Most education programs in the US that seek to close the academic achievement gap in low-income communities target K-5 students who are "below grade level". These programs are designed to help students catch up to grade level. This "at grade level" movement doesn't take into account that being at grade level in low-income communities is below grade level in the real world. More is needed.

The happy stuff

Our ILM Program is designed to put high poverty preschoolers on a crash course with performing above grade level when they begin kindergarten. From age 3 until they start kindergarten our Learners spend 5-8 hours a week "playing". That's because we identify what preschoolers are naturally motivated to learn about (ILMs) and then develop weekly lesson plans (we call them "learning parties") based on those ILMs. For example, if a preschooler really likes using scissors, we develop a lesson plan that focuses on cutting things. And, if in the next lesson we observe that same preschooler likes counting the number of times she cuts, then we plan the next lesson by combining counting and cutting. We plan every single lesson for the two years Learners are enrolled based on ILMs.

The impressive stuff

We started the ILM Program in 2012 in the high poverty communities of East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park. For more than 20 years in these communities, student poverty has been nearly 100%, 80% of students have struggled academically, and 60% of students drop out annually. Yet, our graduates are performing at or above grade level all the way out to 2nd grade. Our graduates are literally defying the odds.

The "how you can help" stuff

Our **volunteer Role Models** bring learning activities to every lesson based on their Learner's ILMs. Role Models leave those activities for homework. Role Models then plan the next lesson based on their Learner's ILMs. Over and over and over again this simple process repeats. 10BH assigns ILM Specialists to each volunteer (and the family they serve) to train, coach, and support them in cultivating ILMs. Specialists also assist with travel schedules, back to school transitions, and many other needs that occur in order to make participating in the program practical and fun.

Contact us to learn more about becoming a volunteer Role Model, donor, donating professional services, and more! We're here to change the world, and you should join us!