

## Summer Literacy Initiative YWCA Camp Wind in the Pines Summer 2020

### The Story of Olivia

As part of our summer literacy program, each camper is given a notebook to use as a writing journal. During the first week of camp, each child chooses their color notebook and personalizes it with stickers and markers. Throughout the summer, campers can use the journal to jot down thoughts and add drawings. It is also used as a time filler between activities.



On occasion, camp counselors have children write journal entries by having them respond to a writing prompt. Campers are required to write the prompt in their notebook and respond with a few written sentences.

One of our 6-year-old campers, Olivia\*, refused to do any journal writing. She would tell her camp counselor and our literacy coach, "I can't!". To help build her confidence and writing skills, the literacy coach made a few accommodations. First, she had the camper practice writing her name in her journal. As she became more comfortable writing her name, the coach had her write a word or two about the topic in her journal. With some practice and confidence building, the camper is now able to write a full sentence.

### Nico's Story

Early in the summer, the camp staff noticed that Nico\* was not at the same reading and writing level as his peers. His behaviors often are impulsive and aggressive towards others.

During a vocabulary building activity, his peers were able to write sentences related to a short list of vocabulary words while he struggled to just copy the words into his journal notebook. The literacy coach made a few accommodations to meet his skill level. Instead of formulating written sentences independently, the coach had him copy 7 new vocabulary words in his writing journal. Next, she had him define the words orally and use the words in a sentence. He has shown improvement over the weeks.



The reading coach is putting together some recommendations for his parents so that they may communicate Nico's needs with his teacher this fall.



The literacy coach was a great support to camp staff this summer, providing and implementing literacy activities for many of the campers. She was well prepared and was able to engage the children based upon their needs and interests.

\*names were changed for privacy