Because giving every Rhode Islander the tools they need to participate in building a strong economy is a smart investment in our future. And Rhode Island’s future innovators are learning today.

**Can learning be fun?**

Our educators think so, and with that in mind they develop engaging projects that relate to the real world. Across 14 Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative (HSLI) programs, children and youth are learning by doing, and they’re returning to school confident and excited to tackle the academic year ahead.

Danielle always arrives at our program in Providence with her signature positive attitude. While a strong student and avid reader, she struggles to make meaningful connections with girls her age. With the new addition of a Girls Circle group, however, we saw Danielle beginning to share creative and reflective activities with her small peer group, discuss issues important to her, and listen to her peers share their experiences and thoughts. Danielle left our program making great strides in developing meaningful connections with girls her own age.

In North Kingstown, teachers in HSLI encourage children to explore their interests. When Charlie, a quiet, shy middle school student participated in every offering available, he began making friends who appreciated his kindness and investigative nature. Whether it was cooking, working in the garden, knitting, karate, or app making, Charlie took the time to learn more. He excelled at all of the science-based activities—the same subjects that he failed the previous school year.

Woonsocket
Cumberland
Central Falls
North Providence
Providence
Pawtucket
West Warwick
North Kingstown
Providence
Westerly

Rosiind, at the HSLI program in Pawtucket, completed her “ecomap” with excitement; she loved mapping out her connections—and was excited to share the many ways she was involved in her community. Over the summer, she added new links. She was very excited about one in particular: thanks to weekly field trips, she’s now connected to the Pawtucket Public Library. With summer over, she plans to visit on her own time, and often.

Early on in Newport, Elijah was reluctant to join in and sometimes made jokes about the activities. About halfway through camp, Elijah did a 180 when he was introduced to the FAB Lab technology program. He became increasingly interested in what was planned for each day, and began asking lots of good questions. Elijah became so proficient with the equipment in the FAB Lab, that he was soon leading lessons for his peers.

**Why invest in summer learning?**

When students participate in out-of-school time programs, including summer learning, they attend school more often, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate. (Afterschool Alliance)
Why include service learning?

Can children see themselves as change agents?

During the six-week, 30-day HSLI program, children and youth become more aware of their community by identifying real issues and concerns. They are learning by solving community problems, and in the process they see themselves as capable of creating change within their own communities.

At Central Falls High School, youth took on building a new playground next to Calcutt Middle School. Using research and design principles learned in their HSLI summer program, they created a blueprint. Sheer ingenuity (and a little muscle) helped them transform an unused piece of property into a mixed-use, public play and think space.

At Connecting for Children & Families in Woonsocket, younger children learned about climate change, and what science says will happen if people don’t reduce their carbon footprints. Energized with new information, they created a public service announcement and posters, and led trash cleanups in their neighborhood.

In North Kingstown’s HSLI Think Tank program, elementary and middle school children created vegetable gardens at Davisville Middle School. Building on their work from the previous summer, they also installed a drip irrigation system. Unexpected vandalism to this project demonstrated how another’s actions can affect us. It also activated the children to use their citizenship skills (and hard work!) to fix the damage.

Elementary school children in Westerly designed various bumper stickers promoting healthy lifestyles: recycling, healthy waterways, exercise, and food choices. They also won a grant from generationOn to support their production costs.

For more information, visit www.uwri.org.

Our Summer Learning Model

Community-based Educators + School-day Educators = Summer learning loss is reduced or eliminated!

Our model is simple:
Bring together the best community-based and school-day professionals to plan and deliver a program where children learn by doing and see real-world connections to their education. Children gain academic skills, social-emotional skills, and essential skills, including teamwork, self-discipline, persistence, and creativity.

United Way of Rhode Island funds programs that work. Join us in supporting the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative, achieving results since 2012. Because Rhode Island’s future is learning today.