



THE OG UPDATE

MAY 2026

ORTON-GILLINGHAM SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

As an option for students who have completed the 100 sessions in our donation-based Orton-Gillingham tutoring program, we offer small group instruction the following year.

Our small group gives children the opportunity to work with their peers and continue to improve their literacy skills in a small group setting twice a week (September through June). This program is contingent upon enrollment and has a \$50 per session rate. Once we receive enough applications from students, we will match students with others at similar levels and with similar schedules and confirm the days and times that the small group will meet.



This year our small group has three students and is taught by Andrea, one of our OG tutors.



She engages students in hands-on activities that reinforce and strengthen the skills they learned last year working with their assigned OG trainees in our donation based program. Students have been so happy to see her and their group members each week and it was wonderful to see them develop relationships with their peers and support one another in their literacy learning.

They all made gains in their knowledge of OG skills, their fluency in reading, and their confidence and love for reading.

Transitioning from one on one instruction to teaching a small group requires great flexibility and the ability to differentiate instruction. We are so thankful to Andrea for taking on this endeavor. She excels at getting to know each of her students, providing an emotionally sound environment, and individualizing instruction to meet their unique needs.



If your student has completed our donation-based tutoring program, or is currently finishing it up this school year and you are interested in joining a small group next year or have more questions, please contact Kate at KQuijano@literacynassau.org.

STUDENT SELF REFLECTIONS

For the month of May, we are asking students to practice their writing skills. They will write a reflection about their experiences at Literacy Nassau and what they learned this year.

We look forward to sharing their ideas in the next OG Update.

My OG Reflections

Student: Ethan

GREAT WORK

I got better at pronouncing words. I like writing sentences and I like the treats. My goal is to read longer stories.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



DAYTIME Tutoring Hours Only:
Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22

OFFICE CLOSED:
Saturday, May 23 and Monday, May 25



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

We will be closed on Saturday, May 23rd and Monday, May 25th.



FEE-BASED OG TUTORING

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

Students in our fee-based Orton-Gillingham tutoring program work one on one with a certified OG practitioner; the number of sessions per week is flexible and can be in-person at our center or conducted virtually via Zoom. Our tutors utilize explicit, multisensory instruction to target each student's specific reading weaknesses. Materials are tailored for each student and skills are introduced at a pace appropriate to each student. One on one OG tutoring is the most individualized intervention students can receive and is essential for students with dyslexia to learn how to read and spell. We currently serve about 15 fee-based students this school year. This service is \$150 per session.



For students who have successfully completed the 100 required sessions for donation-based tutoring, we offer a discounted rate of \$100 per session for fee-based tutoring. If the trainee your child is currently working with is joining our staff next year, we would prioritize placing them together again if you



enroll in fee-based tutoring so they can continue to work with someone they already have a rapport with. If your schedules no longer align, we have other wonderful practitioners who can continue working with your child. All of their previous assessments and skills covered would be passed on to the new tutor so they can pick up right where they left off.

If you are interested in signing up for fee-based tutoring for next school year or have additional questions, please contact Kate at KQuijano@literacynassau.org.

REFLECTIONS FROM AN OG TUTOR

(submitted by Jeannie Curtin, OG Tutor)

Over the past decade, I have served in schools as a general education teacher, special education teacher, and reading interventionist, consistently supporting a wide range of diverse learners. My background has given me a deep understanding of how significantly reading struggles can affect a child's confidence and love of learning. This year, I had the opportunity to combine my experience and passion as a full-time OG practitioner. In this role, I have worked with students from elementary through high school, delivering explicit, evidence-based, and multisensory instruction tailored to their individual needs. It has been especially rewarding to witness their meaningful growth over time, particularly for students who are bright, creative, and eager, but for whom reading felt like a mountain they couldn't climb. Working as a practitioner has allowed me to give them the specific tools to succeed. As their reading and writing skills strengthen, so does their confidence, reinforcing my commitment to structured literacy and student-centered instruction. Watching them overcome frustration and realize they are capable of so much more than they ever imagined is a reward as profound as their academic achievement. That transformation is what inspires me every day.

OG Summer

Intensive Program

REGISTER NOW

JULY 6 - JULY 30
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:15am-12:00noon

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 1-6
Located at: 1 Ivy Lane in Wantagh
email: kquijano@literacynassau.org

SHANI LUTRELL, OTR/L

LICENSED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST | SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSULTANT | LD & NEURODIVERGENT ADVOCATE

Shani Luttrell is a licensed, NBCOT-certified occupational therapist with senior-level school-based experience at the NYC Department of Education, where she served as a Senior Instructional Therapist across all five boroughs.

As the parent of a child with dyslexia who successfully navigated 18 years of IEP and IESP processes, school advocacy, and the college admissions journey, Shani now offers private consulting for families navigating:

- IEP and IESP processes and school advocacy
- Special education rights and disability law
- College admissions and financial aid for LD and neurodivergent students

"I know this system from both sides of the table."

MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT
SHANI.LUTTRELL@GMAIL.COM
 (917) 834-4061

Our OG students were hard at work throughout the month of April working together on a poetry project. Each time they came to the center, there was a different letter displayed for them. They had to use their knowledge of phonograms and vocabulary to list words that begin with that letter and which describe Literacy Nassau. By the end of the month, all the letters were put together and we created an acrostic poem about LN. It was fun to see them in action brainstorming words for this project!

Acrostic Poem