



# THE OG UPDATE

JANUARY 2026

## LOOKING BACK AND LIFTING UP

*(submitted by Terri Stapleton, OG Tutor)*

Another year has passed us by  
As we make a collective sigh  
Let's not just look at goals ahead  
Let's honor what was done instead

Was there one less tear shed this year  
Or homework done with much less fear?  
Perhaps your child gained a skill  
Or read a book with much more will

Perhaps his self-esteem was raised  
from doing well and getting praised  
or maybe she was able to  
complete a task with less ado

Perhaps at school the teacher saw  
a job well done and so much more  
let's all be sure to shout out loud:  
"You're a rock star, we are proud!"

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Traditionally, many take the year's end to look forward and set goals, but just as important is the opportunity to look back and reflect. Let's all take pause to name and honor the strides our children have made.

Orton-Gillingham teachers use repeated practice to foster success and confidence. We understand the importance of recognizing students for their accomplishments, big and small. Praise breeds motivation, and motivation breeds success.

As the new year begins, let's take time to lift up our children and tell them what a good job they have done. Here are a few suggestions:

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**We are  
closed on  
Monday,  
January 19th.**

**January 24:  
OG Cohort  
Training**

## SLAP A WORD

Practice your Orton-Gillingham skills in a fun scavenger hunt activity. After each session, pull a task card.

Find a word (written on a mitten) that matches your task.

Slap the word and read it.



## FUTURE ORTON-GILLINGHAM TUTORS IN TRAINING



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JULIAN

(submitted by Barbara, OG Trainee)

This Student Spotlight shines on Julian, a bright and imaginative 6-year-old whose love for all things Marvel makes every day a little more heroic. Whether he's diving into stories, creating art, or exploring new places, Julian brings curiosity and creativity wherever he goes. What truly makes Julian stand out is his imagination. His knowledge about his interests make him a real expert on superheroes, villains and superpowers. Read on for our mini interview:



**Q: Who are your favorite Marvel characters?**

I like Rocket the Raccoon, Swamp Thing, Riddler, and Scorpion.

**Q: What are your favorite things to do in school?**

My favorite things are playing in the gym and reading at the library.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing when you're not in school?**

I like to watch YouTube, do art, visit libraries, and make my own encyclopedias.

**Q: What superpower would you want to have, and why?**

Invisibility—so I can watch people without them seeing me!

## LOOKING BACK AND LIFTING UP (CONTINUED)

- Send your child a card listing their achievements
- Distribute post-its around the house with words of praise
- Share a compliment of the day
- Keep a fridge-worthy running list of things you are proud of
- Plan a week of dinner conversations with your child and ask them some suggestions below:
  - 1 What is a positive behavior or habit you have developed?
  - 2 What is an area you have improved in?
  - 3 List three positive words to describe your year at the center.
  - 4 What is a reading achievement you are most proud of?
  - 5 Describe a challenge you overcame.
  - 6 Tell me about a reading skill you have mastered this year.
  - 7 Share a life lesson you learned.

While January is the start of the new calendar year, it is actually about the mid-point for the school year. Now is a good time to check in with your child's OG tutor, discuss their progress, and see if there are any other supports that should be put in place. Students in the Associate practicum will receive an assessment when they reach 50 sessions of instruction. The tutor trainees will share this information with families to give them a better idea of the progress that has been made so far this year. It's also a great time to start planning for summer.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and allowing us the honor of working with them to build their confidence and improve their reading.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HARMONY

(submitted by Gina, OG Tutor)

Harmony is a hardworking second grade student who has been attending Literacy Nassau since September. Harmony is a fun, enthusiastic student who loves talking about sports and building with Legos when we take a little break. Please read on to learn more about her.

**Q: What is your favorite sport?**

My favorite sports are soccer, basketball, and football.

**Q: What is your favorite team?**

The New York Knicks

**Q: What is your favorite subject in school?**

I like doing math. The math equations are easy.

**Q: What is your favorite movie?**

Home Alone. It is so funny! I watched it yesterday. The short guy got electrocuted and the tall one got covered in paint. The kid was able to trick the bad guys.

**Q: What do you want people to know about you?**

I really like going to gym. We get to run a lot!

**Q: What is your favorite book?**



I like reading books about basketball.



Join us for at an open house to learn more about our **Orton-Gillingham Summer Intensive Program.**

Students work on OG principles in a small group setting to help improve their reading skills!

Lessons and activities are guided by teachers who are certified through the Orton-Gillingham Academy.



Literacy Nassau's OG Summer  
Intensive Program

# HAVE FUN OPEN HOUSE

Learn all about our Orton-Gillingham  
program and tour our center.

**MONDAY, MARCH 16**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 13**  
**6:00-7:00PM**

To sign up email Kate at:  
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