



THE OG UPDATE

JANUARY 2025

PROVIDING OG SERVICES THROUGH SCHOOL CONTRACTS

(submitted by Izabella Katz, Program Manager)

Over the past three years, I have had the pleasure of working with many students in their schools during the school day as part of Literacy Nassau's contract work with Long Island school districts. It has been a rewarding experience to meet with so many different students and to support teachers as I visit different schools. I would like to share some more information about the work we do.

Providing Orton-Gillingham services within school districts creates potential for students to achieve their academic goals. Orton-Gillingham is a structured, multisensory, and evidence-based approach to literacy instruction that is uniquely designed to support students with dyslexia and other reading challenges.

An Orton-Gillingham session is dynamic and engaging. Lessons are tailored to each student's specific needs, incorporating visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities to reinforce learning. Each day begins with reviewing the specific goals for each student. Practitioners prepare lesson plans that align with students' individual needs. Sessions typically last a class period and are designed to be highly interactive.



For example, a lesson might start with a warm-up activity, such as practicing phonemic awareness through rhyming or segmenting sounds. This is followed by explicit instruction with a target skill. Visual tools like letter tiles and flashcards are paired with kinesthetic activities, such as writing letters in sand or using hand motions to reinforce concepts. Students also engage in reading and writing exercises that connect to the skills being taught. Controlled texts are used for reading practice to ensure that students experience success while reinforcing their learning. Practitioners provide immediate feedback, celebrate progress, and adapt the lesson as needed based on student responses. The session ends with a brief review and positive reinforcement to keep students motivated. Outside of sessions, OG practitioners document progress, communicate with classroom teachers, and prepare materials for upcoming lessons. The work is rewarding, as practitioners see firsthand how individualized instruction builds confidence and competence in their students. The focus on personalization ensures the needs of students are met.

Providing Orton-Gillingham services has fostered collaboration among teachers, administrators, and families. Regular communication ensures that everyone involved

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Snowman Scavenger Hunt



During the month of January, students will combine their scavenger hunting abilities with their knowledge of syllable types in the following fun activity: Students will be asked to:

1. Search for a hidden snowman.
2. Read the word on your snowman.
3. Tell what syllable type your word is.
4. Tape your snowman on the window under the correct syllable type.

Hope you enjoy this word hunt. Have fun!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



OG Cohort training on January 11.

Certified OG training on January 26.

The office will be closed on Monday, January 20th.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: DIANA

(submitted by MaryEllen, OG Trainee)



Diana has been attending Literacy Nassau three afternoons a week since September. She has made tremendous progress in reading with the Orton-Gillingham approach. Diana is hard working and enthusiastic. It did not take her long to get into a rhythm with her Orton-Gillingham lessons and she makes the most of each session. She is in the 6th grade at a local elementary school.

Please read on to learn more about Diana.

What is your favorite subject in school?

I love art. I like to draw and make different projects and it is always fun.

Where would you like to go on vacation?

I would like to go to Walt Disney World. I went there once and it was great. I would love to go back.

Do you have any pets?

I used to have a dog but I don't anymore. I would love to get a puppy, more than anything in the world.

What do you enjoy when you are not at school or tutoring?

I like to spend time with my family and my cousins. I like animals, Hello Kitty and drawing.

What do you like about tutoring?

I like writing in cursive. I also like the games and especially the prizes.

What would you like to learn more about?

I would like to learn more words so I can read chapter books on my own.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: IVAN

(submitted by Marcella, OG Trainee)



Ivan is a fun loving kid who always has a smile on his face. I have enjoyed working with him for the past four months and seeing all the growth he has made in his reading. I asked Ivan some questions so that you can get to know him better:

Q. How old are you?

A. I am 8.

Q. Where in the world would you like to travel to?

A. Spain, Argentina, China, or Chile.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. A soccer player.

Q. What is your favorite thing to do at tutoring?

A. Play roll and read.

Q. What do you like to do for fun?

A. I play soccer and football with my friends and I play Gaga. I scored a hat trick in soccer 15 times.

Q. What is something you wish for?

A. My wish is to meet Messi the soccer player.

Q. What is your favorite subject?

A. Math. I like to do $160 + 159 = 319$.

Q. Do you have any pets?

A. Yes, 1 dog, Rocco, and 2 puppies, Polar Bear and Brother.

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. Spaghetti and meatballs and salad.

PROVIDING OG SERVICES THROUGH SCHOOL CONTRACTS (CONTINUED)

understands the student's progress and contributes to their success. Teachers and OG practitioners work closely to align instructional strategies, ensuring consistency between the classroom and OG sessions. This partnership allows for seamless integration of learned skills into daily classroom activities, maximizing student growth.

Parents play an equally critical role. OG practitioners hold regular parent and teacher meetings and workshops to educate families on how to support their child's learning at home.

Simple activities like practicing sight words, reading together, or using multi-sensory techniques at home reinforce the progress made during sessions.



These collaborative efforts create a unified support system for the student, empowering parents to feel involved and teachers to feel supported.

Additionally, ongoing communication through progress reports, email updates, or quick check-ins keeps everyone informed and invested in the student's journey. This sense of partnership builds trust and ensures that each student's needs are met holistically.

If your school district is interested in contracting with us to provide OG services, please have the school administrator contact Karen at kmicciche@literacynassau.org.

Interested in becoming an OG certified practitioner? Join our pathways program.

Which path is right for you?
Let Literacy Nassau help you decide.



Email kmicciche@literacynassau.org for information on our upcoming Pathways to Certification Program.

Coursework begins in January.

Accepting applications now!

