



THE OG UPDATE

JUNE 2025

FUN WITH LETTERS, WORDS, AND BOOKS

(submitted by Terri Stapleton, Orton-Gillingham Tutor)

Games are a great way to reinforce literacy skills and spend quality time together. You can purchase popular games such as Scrabble, Word Bingo, Bananagrams, and Boggle (most have Junior editions as well). Experiment with some lesser known games such as Word Snap or Words Over Easy.

You can also tailor games by creating your own. Kids love to help with this. All you need is paper, index cards, and markers. Try a tic-tac-toe board with sight words, or make your own Bingo cards. Try Swat the Card using a dollar store fly swatter. Create word or letter cards and place them face up. As you call out each word or sound, have your child find it, swat it, and flip it over! The kids love to be timed doing this.

My students' absolute favorite game is a Match Game. Create matches and place cards face down. Players take turns turning over two cards at a time. If they match, the player keeps the cards and goes again. Don't limit yourself to just matching words. You can try antonyms/synonyms, rhyming words, or syllables that need to pair up to make a word.

Make books easily accessible! Scatter them on coffee tables, nightstands, and in baskets. Be role models and be sure your kids see the adults reading. Make a reading nook or a tent, or read in the dark with flashlights. And don't forget to visit your local library! Put down the devices and make it a weekly outing, perhaps followed by ice cream or pizza. Try a library scavenger hunt; it's likely the childrens' librarian has prepared ones available. The public libraries also have engaging summer reading challenges for kids of all ages and levels.

How about a summer book club with friends or family members? Get together to talk about a common read. Add some tea or snacks like bookworms (gummy worms) for fun. Need a springboard for conversations? Write generic questions on popsicle sticks for kids to pull out of a can. Have a contest and vote to see who can come up with the best name for your book club. Use fabric paint to make club T-shirts, or create your own logo and make bookmarks with cardstock and ribbon.

Finally, all kids love to be read to—young and old alike. A Read Aloud is a wonderful way for kids to access high-interest books that they may not be ready to read on their own. Don't limit yourself to only picture books. Try a chapter book or a series, and don't forget to include some graphic novels! Most of all, have fun! Here's to creating lifelong readers!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**Last Saturday
for center
tutoring hours
is June 14th.**

**The office will
be closed on
Thursday,
June 19th.**

**June 20th is
the last day
for EVENING
tutoring hours.**

**DAYTIME
tutoring hours
begin on
June 23rd.**



MY LEARNING REFLECTIONS

My OG Reflections

Student: Antonia *activity*
My favorite is
to read the
sentences. I learned
for. I want to read
for. I am better
at handwriting.

My OG Reflections

Student: Diana
I learned that f makes four
sounds. My goal is to read big books.

My OG Reflections

Student: Khai
This year at literacy house I have
expanded my knowledge of morphology
by learning what, when, and why
a word is used and how to spell
with the parts of speech. I
had learned and how to be fresh
differentiate the sounds I
say, see, and hear.

My OG Reflections

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

ORTON-GILLINGHAM REFLECTIONS

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

As we wrap up the 2024-2025 school year, we would like to thank all of our tutors and students for another wonderful year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and watching our students become better readers. We asked our tutors and our students to reflect on their year. Here are some of their thoughts:

I've had the pleasure of working with five delightful students this year-Andrea, Gibson, Valentina, Matthew and Aliayha. They each brought their own unique personality to our sessions and I've truly enjoyed getting to know each one of them! To be able to witness their confidence blossom, as their reading skills improved throughout the year, has been the most rewarding experience for me. I'm so proud of their hard work and perseverance and I am thankful to be on this journey towards literacy with each one of them.

Donna, OG practitioner

My experience at Literacy Nassau has been life changing not only for me, but also for my student. I have been very fortunate to work with like minded, passionate people who are invested in helping others succeed. The support and feedback that I have received from the wonderful staff at Literacy Nassau has been absolutely incredible and has provided me with the knowledge required to help others become successful with their literacy skills. My student has gained confidence, made tremendous improvement with her literacy skills, and has developed an enjoyment for reading. The program at Literacy Nassau is amazing.

Andrea, OG trainee

Participating in the Orton-Gillingham practicum at Literacy Nassau was a great experience that deepened my understanding of structured literacy instruction. Through hands-on practice and consistent feedback, I developed the skills to deliver targeted, multisensory lessons tailored to individual student needs. This practicum has greatly strengthened my confidence and effectiveness as a specialized reading teacher.

Gina C, OG trainee

I am so grateful to have been a part of the 24-25 cohort. Thank you to all for your guidance and support. My student and I have made great progress this year.

Mary, OG trainee



Learning is fun with friends! Aidan and Matthew played a literacy game together at one of their sessions to help them review their advanced Orton-Gillingham skills.

