

THE OG UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2023

BECOMING A FELLOW: KAREN'S JOURNEY

(submitted by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

For the past 7 years, I have been studying the Orton-Gillingham approach and slowly climbing a certification ladder towards becoming a Fellow of the Academy. I'm entering my final year of study this year, which means that everything I do this year is essentially part of a huge, cumulative final exam.

If you were to ask me to write a "How I spent My Summer Vacation" essay, it would be the most uneventful thing you ever read. I spent my summer in the basement of a library in Cape Cod, writing a curriculum for a five-day, 30-hour training. The training is the first half of a 60-hour, year-long Associate course that we run every year, which I am solely responsible for this year. What I write will become Literacy Nassau's course guide to becoming an Associate-level OG practitioner - a course which can - in the future - be delivered to teachers in school districts.

Back in 2016, when I met with John and Janet Kornreich about my idea to introduce tutoring services for children with dyslexia, I knew the road to creating a sustainable model would be a long one. They knew it, too, which is why they made an eight-year investment in our organization. Now, as I near the end of my journey, I can say with great pride that what we are building and working towards is going to change the education landscape for Long Island kids in a tremendous way for many years to come. There is dyslexia legislation being developed as I write this that will one day make it's way to school administrations all over New York in the form of mandates from the NYS Education Department. One day, schools will have to provide proper, science-of-reading-based interventions to children with dyslexia, and the first step will be to train their teachers.

And when that happens, Literacy Nassau will be ready to help.

It's amazing how much I've learned, and continue to learn, on this journey. This is the first time writing a whole curriculum, and it fascinates me. It took me six weeks to develop five days of workshops, through which I am teaching our new OG cohort of trainees everything you could ever dream of knowing about the English language. It's intense and scary, but I love it. And this is only the beginning! This year, I'll be observing them as they teach, I'll be helping guide them toward their own applications, and I'll be creating and delivering professional development workshops for them to help them grow as they move through the school year. When they apply (and pass, thus becoming Associate level OG therapists), it will be because of me.

Imagine that...but for any school district on Long Island. Imagine the number of children whose lives will be changed as a result of this work. It's incredible, and I'm so proud to be at the helm of this monumental moment.



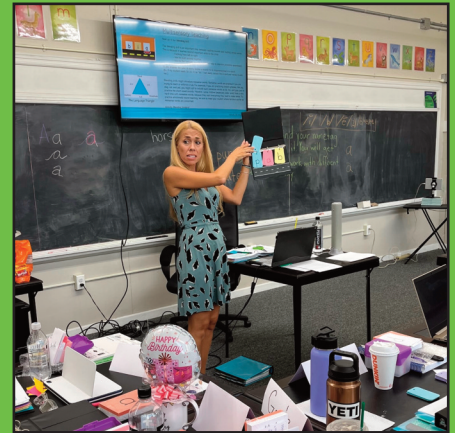
September 7th 7:00-8:00pm **OR** September 9th 9:00-10:00am:

NEW Parent Virtual Orientation Meeting; link will be emailed

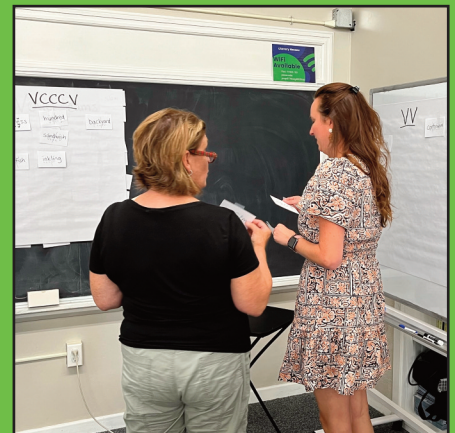
Week of September 11th: Tutoring Begins

September 25th: Daytime Tutoring Hours Only

NEW OG COHORT IN TRAINING



Karen models how to conduct a blending drill.



Trainees sort words by syllable division pattern.

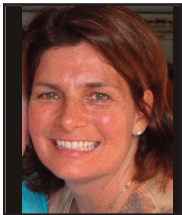


Sample blending binder drive-the-car and blend the sounds.

MEET OUR NEW ORTON-GILLINGHAM COHORT

We welcomed a new cohort of tutors for our associate level Orton-Gillingham training. They were matched with an elementary aged student that they will tutor for their practicum experience. These students are part of our donation-based tutoring program and pay only what they can afford.

We asked our new cohort of OG tutor trainees to tell us why they were interested in training with us. This is what they said:



Gayle: I am a pediatric occupational therapist and the mother of a dyslexic college student. I have experienced, first hand, how important effective and timely reading instruction is for the lifelong success of the dyslexic learner. I am looking forward to having a greater impact on the lives of my students and families.



Gina: I look forward to training with Literacy Nassau so I can advance my knowledge of dyslexia and the Orton-Gillingham program. As a dedicated and experienced educator of over 20 years, I am confident that this journey will enhance my ability to help my students excel in reading.

Jacqueline: I have been an educator for almost 30 years and I am a mother of children with learning differences. A multi sensory approach to teaching has been a core principal of mine and one I am comfortable with and skilled at using. The OG training will add to and enhance my skill set so I can assist children with all learning differences. I am excited to embark on this learning journey and to use in the classroom what I have learned.



Neil: I am a dedicated educator with three decades of experience, and I am excited to join Literacy Nassau. Drawing inspiration from my journey as a parent to a son with dyslexia, I am committed to empowering fellow learners with special needs on their educational path.

Rebecca: I am currently a Reading Teacher for grades 3-5, and previously received reading intervention as an elementary school student. I can personally relate to the experience and frustration of struggling with learning to read. I am so looking forward to au Orton-Gillingham cohort this year and helping to empower students to find success and enjoyment in reading!



Rosemary: I am happy to join Literacy Nassau for the Associate Level Orton Gillingham training program. As a special education teacher and mother of four, I am eager to put my new skills into practice with both my students and my own children.



Shamika: I am a Special Education teacher with the Department of Education. I have been teaching for 8 years. I am beyond excited to obtain my OG Associate Level Certification. I love teaching students how to read and then witnessing the joy and confidence it gives them.



Susanna: I have been teaching elementary education for more than 15 years. It is my goal to help all children love to read. I am excited to learn OG because it will help me become a better teacher. My daughter is dyslexic and I would like to help her reach her full potential.



Terri: I'm a newly retired reading teacher who has enjoyed sharing my love of books with my students. It's a thrill to be part of the new OG cohort who are so passionate about literacy. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn a new set of skills that will enable me to continue to bring the joy of reading to students.

