

INCREASING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

(submitted by Izabella Katz, OG Tutor)

Reading and writing can be tiring when it is expected all day long. For our students with dyslexia it can be especially exhausting. They are using all their resources to get through the school day. My students go to each Orton-Gillingham session with the expectation that they will have to both read and write. They are constantly reviewing and learning new Orton-Gillingham concepts. I am always looking for extra ways to engage my students with materials to make reading and writing feel less of a chore and more enjoyable!

Incorporating reading games has made the biggest difference. Having a word list of twenty words can be overwhelming; I have found using something as simple as a "roll and read" chart can make reading more fun. The students roll a dice and then pick a word to read from the chart. It gives my students the chance to read all target words for the day while feeling like all they had to do was play a game!

Roll & Read					
thing	hung	rang	sting	pink	junk
lung	Calvin	long	song	sunk	blank
king	napkin	drink	bunk	risk	sank
honk	think	link	trunk	Austin	bank
admit	tong	hang	wing	gong	swing

My students look forward to our reading games each week. One of the top game choices is reading UNO. It's the same colored deck as UNO but instead of numbers it's words. Students have to read their word aloud and match the card based on color or syllable type of the previously played word. I can adjust my deck to have an assortment of Orton-Gillingham concepts we are currently working on or one that I think we can use some review on. It is a great way to see what concepts each student is reading with automaticity. They love trying to beat the teacher.



Another game students have loved is bang! It's one of the quicker games compared to UNO. You place a bunch of wooden sticks with a variety of different words written on each stick that would be appropriate for the student or group of students who are playing. A few of the sticks should only say "bang!." Students take turns pulling a stick and reading the word. They try to make the tallest tower of words. If they pull a "bang" stick they have to put all the sticks back in the box. It is a great way to review newly learned material!



chat + ing	rest + less
double	no change
double	no change
shred + ed	trap + ed
double	no change
double	no change

If I don't feel like we have time for a game I try to switch up the work by giving out task cards. Recently my student used the 1+ 1+ 1 doubling rule cards. He clipped the cards on either "double" or "no change" to get some extra practice applying the rule as a warm up. Learning can always be fun when presented in a variety of ways that are engaging to the student.

SECRET SNOWFLAKE EXCHANGE



Our December activity will be a "Secret Snowflake." Each student will be assigned another student to write to throughout the month, but instead of signing their name, they will keep their identity a secret and see if their new friend can guess who they are. Students will work on a craft and a card and will exchange their homemade gifts and reveal who they are at the end of the month. We hope this activity will help to build relationships amongst our students and tutors and give them some extra fun during their OG sessions during the winter holiday season.

Weeks of 12/1 & 12/4:
Leave a secret note for your Secret Snowflake. Someone will leave you a note too. Read your note with your tutor and try to guess who is writing to you.

Week of 12/11: Create a Snowflake Craft as a gift for your Secret Snowflake. (Supplies will be provided.)

Week of 12/18: Leave your gift and card for your Secret Snowflake.



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS

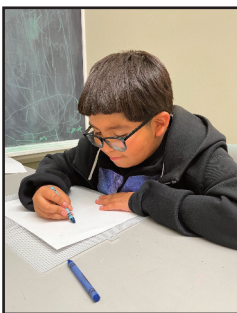


December 9th and 10th - Training for **Certified** Orton-Gillingham Tutors
 December 15th - NO Evening Tutoring Hours. Office Closed.
 December 20th - NO Evening Tutoring Hours Office Closed.
 December 23rd - January 1st - Office Closed. We are back on January 2nd.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KEVIN

(submitted by Shamika, OG Trainee)

Kevin is a 10 year old, fifth grade student who enjoys spending time with his family and friends. When Kevin is not in school or OG tutoring he can be found playing soccer with his cousins and friends. Kevin is a smart and kind student, who attends all of his OG sessions eager to learn. He is also an amazing big brother to his baby sister. It is an absolute pleasure having Kevin as my student! He is the best!



Q: What makes you happy?

Spending time with my sister and my dog.

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

I want to be a Police Officer.

Q: What is your favorite toy? I love wrestling figures.

Q: What is your favorite holiday?

Christmas because I get a lot of presents.

Q: What is your favorite subject in school?

Gym and library. I get to play games in gym and I get to exchange books in library.

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

Q: Where is your favorite place to eat? Taco Bell

Q: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I would go to Mexico. That's where my family is from.

Q: What do you want people to know about you? I am nice.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LEVI

(submitted by Rebecca, OG Trainee)

Levi is a smart and funny second grade student with a lot of energy and a love of reading. He is the hardest worker and highly determined to improve his reading and writing this year through OG tutoring. He is also a superstar athlete in hockey, tennis, football and soccer and the best big brother to his twin siblings!

He has been an absolute pleasure to get to know and teach and I hope you enjoy getting to know him as much as I have.

Q: What is the best part of your life?

Playing hockey, playing with my siblings and friends, and coming to Literacy Nassau!

Q: What is your biggest talent?

I am great at math, hockey, soccer and Roblox!

Q: How do you feel about reading?

I like reading! It's a little bit hard sometimes, but it is interesting when I read nonfiction books!

Q: What is your favorite book or series?

I like reading nonfiction books. I mostly like books about history and presidents.

Q: What is something you like to do outside of school?

Playing Roblox with my friends.

Q: If you had a superpower, what would it be? How would you use it?

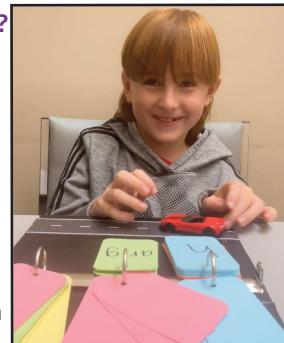
I would want to have super speed and super strength so I can beat everyone in every sport!

Q: What are you most thankful for?

I am thankful for my birthday party! I got to celebrate with everyone and all of my friends. I also got awesome presents!

Q: What is your favorite part of your tutoring sessions?

Writing sentences using a pop-it and blending words with my race car!



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Thanksgiving food/book drive. Donations were given to the St. Frances de Chantal pantry and The Book Fairies.

