

WHY IS OG THE GOLD STANDARD IN DYSLEXIA INTERVENTION?

(submitted by Stacey Popkin, OG Tutor)

Should children with dyslexia say - "I am dyslexic," or "I have dyslexia?" Researchers have stated that a person is not dyslexic, that it doesn't represent who they are. A person has dyslexia - just like a person has diabetes. A child should not be identified by their learning difficulties. This same concept applies to the type of intervention a child with dyslexia is to receive. There is not one program representing the perfect tutorial for a child with a reading disability, however there is a gold standard in which to manage the students' training. Why is Orton-Gillingham (OG) the gold standard in dyslexia intervention? How is it different from other reading programs?

OG is an approach, not a program. It is an individualized, diagnostic, prescriptive, and multi-sensory (visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile) method of teaching reading and spelling. Students are usually placed in a one-on-one setting (although a group setting is not uncommon) and are given direct and explicit instruction. The focus of instruction is on the child's reading, spelling and writing skills. No matter the level of intervention the tutoring will be conducted as slow as the child needs but as fast as the child can learn. Materials previously taught are continually reviewed with the students so that skills are built upon and not lost to the next skill taught. Students have the most success when tutored a minimum of twice a week for an hour a session.

Other reading programs are designed in a leveled format, whereby you are taught material in a specific order and cannot move to the next level without mastery. Once a skill is learned it is not revisited. Students must follow the order of the program thus losing any prescriptive part of the intervention. Furthermore, several programs are not multi-sensory, thus the use of visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic (VATK) methods are not used. Research has shown that the use of VATK engages the brain, helps with learning retention and creates a teaching environment that utilizes all the senses.

The OG approach is a time-tested practice that has been scientifically validated for over 80 years. It is a powerful tool that boosts a student's confidence and helps them thrive as a reader, writer and speller. This approach has helped my son reach his goal of high honor roll. The Orton Gillingham Academy provides certification in the OG approach. Every member of the Academy can trace their roots back to Samuel Orton or Anna Gillingham depending on the lineage of their Academy training Fellow. There are different levels of certification and you can always check your provider's certification with the OGA through their website:

<https://www.ortonacademy.org/for-parents/find-a-teacher-tutor>

Literacy Nassau proudly offers training that leads to OG certification through the OGA, ensuring that students with dyslexia have access to the gold standard in intervention.

THANKSGIVING FOOD AND BOOK DRIVE



We had so much fun spinning the wheel and winning cool prizes as we celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Month in October. As we move into November, we start to think about all the things we have to be thankful for and how we can reach out to others who need our help.

Beginning on November 1st, we will be having a food and book drive. When you come to your tutoring session, please bring a non-perishable food item and/or a book (new or used; in good condition) to donate. For each item you donate, your child will receive a "feather" to write their name on and add to our growing turkey that will be displayed on our window. When you have earned 10 feathers for the turkey, you will receive a prize.

Food donations will be given to the food pantry of St. Frances de Chantal Church at the end of the month. Book donations will either be added to the Literacy Nassau library or donated to Book Fairies, an organization that distributes books to under-resourced communities on LI and NYC.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



No evening tutoring hours on November 5.

Closed on November 11 for Veteran's Day.

Closed from November 28 through December 1 for Thanksgiving. We will be back on December 2nd.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: GABBY

(submitted by Annemarie, OG Trainee)

Gabby is a sweet and charming 8 year old girl. She always comes in to her sessions with a big smile and ready to work. When she isn't working in school she enjoys vacationing with her family. Two of her favorite getaways have been Hershey Park and Great Wolf Lodge.

Here are a few more fun facts about Gabby:

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: A salad or Checkers.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: *Wish*, but I also used to love *The Princess and the Frog*.

Q: What do you want to be for Halloween?

A: Taylor Swift.

Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be?

A: A dog because they are sweet like my dog Jax.

Q: What would you like to be when you grow up?

A: A teacher. When my mom goes to set up her classroom, I help her every year. I think it would be fun to be a teacher.

We are looking forward to seeing all of the great strides that Gabby will make this year!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JACOB

(submitted by Liz, OG Trainee)

Jacob is 9 years old and in the fourth grade. Jacob is a math whiz! He enjoys playing soccer and building with Legos. He comes to our tutoring sessions eager to learn. Jacob is a smart and enthusiastic learner. Jacob enjoys the cursive writing portion of our sessions and he is forming beautiful letters using script. We are currently reviewing digraphs and blends. Jacob is a hard working student who shows up to our sessions with a smile on his face.

Here is a little more information about Jacob!

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: *Dogman* is my favorite book.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Pasta.

Q: What is your favorite subject in school?

A: Math and Gym.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: A dog named Buddy and a cat named Toby.

Q: If you could go on vacation, where would you like to go?

A: Disneyland.

Q: What is your favorite holiday?

A: Halloween and Christmas.



Our students enjoyed celebrating Dyslexia Awareness Month in October!



Congratulations!

To our own Executive Director, Karen Micciche, for becoming a Fellow of the Orton-Gillingham Academy.

"Congratulations! You continue to accomplish what many can only dream of. We are so proud of you." - Board of Directors



Karen has been studying under the prestigious Orton-Gillingham Academy for the past 8 years. There are levels of certification, and the highest level is Fellow, where you can train and certify teachers in the therapeutic OG approach for reading and spelling remediation. The process is arduous! Karen applied for Fellow status in June, and last month she found out she was accepted - **on the first try!**