



THE OG UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2025

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ORTON-GILLINGHAM COHORT

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

In August, we welcomed a new cohort of trainees who will be studying the Orton-Gillingham approach with us throughout this school year and ultimately receiving their associate level certification by next summer. They completed their initial 35 hours of training which introduced them to the OG approach, the components of the lesson plan, and early OG skills. They ended the week by watching a video of a sample lesson (thank you to Luke, our student actor). They also had the opportunity to plan a portion of a lesson themselves and roleplay teaching in front of the rest of the cohort. This allowed them to practice working with the OG principles they just learned and to get ideas from one another.

After the initial week of training, our trainees were matched with a student who they will tutor throughout the school year for a total of 100 sessions of practicum where they will receive observations and feedback to further support them on their journey as an OG tutor. They will also meet for an additional five weekend dates in order to finish the rest of the required 70 hours of training for their associate level certification. It was a pleasure meeting all of these enthusiastic, dedicated OG trainees and we can't wait to see them meet their students and start putting the new skills they learned this summer into action.

The students who were matched with our trainees are part of our unique donation based tutoring, which allows families to receive OG services at a donation-based rate that they can afford. It provides a dual purpose for helping students learn to read and helping our trainees get experience and fulfill their practicum requirements to obtain OG certification.

We asked our new cohort of trainees to tell us about themselves and why they are interested in training for OG with us. Here is what they said:



Darlin: I've been an educator for over 29 years, working with at-risk learners and helping them discover their potential. I'm also a proud mom of three amazing kids with learning differences—they've been my biggest inspiration in wanting to make learning accessible and joyful for all children. I'm passionate about helping kids learn to read, spell, and write. I'm looking forward to expanding my skills and making a difference through the Orton-Gillingham approach with the Literacy Nassau team.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



September 11 at
7:00pm or
September 13 at
9:00am:
New OG Parent
Orientation

September 15:
OG Tutoring
begins
for students

OG COHORT TRAINING



The center was prepared and ready for a new group of trainees.



Trainees learning and role playing to practice important components of the Orton-Gillingham lesson plan.



Thank You
★ FOR YOUR ★
Hardwork!
HAPPY
LABOR DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST
THE OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY.

MEET OUR NEW ORTON-GILLINGHAM COHORT



Sarah: I've been an elementary special education teacher for 7 years, working in both ICT and 1:1 settings across grades K-5. Over the years, I've watched my students thrive when given specialized reading support, and it's inspired me to become part of that process. I'm excited to learn new, evidence-based strategies through the OG training so I can better meet my students' needs right in the classroom and help them grow into confident, capable readers.



Christine: As a newly retired NYC educator with nearly three decades of experience, I look forward to combining my commitment for teaching with evidence-based strategies that truly make a difference. Seeing a child move from struggling with letters to confidently reading full sentences is a transformation that never loses its magic. I am eager to pursue OG to support students and watch them succeed.



Andrea: I've been teaching elementary students in the Sayville School District for 29 years, and I currently teach 3rd grade. Helping kids learn to read is truly my passion! I love using best practices and explicit instruction to make sure every child feels confident and successful. I'm always looking for new ways to grow as a teacher, and I'm really excited to be working toward my OG certification to keep learning and supporting my students.



Richard: After graduating from NCC and NYU, I worked for 40 years as a magazine editor at People Magazine and Entertainment Weekly. Volunteering was one of my goals after retirement, but my wife became sick and I was her caretaker until she died four years ago, after 52 years together. I began volunteering after that, teaching ESL to adults at Literacy Nassau. Now I'm branching out by helping children and I'm TOTALLY excited by the prospect.



Barbara: I'm a Certified Literacy Specialist with many years of experience supporting students. I'm also a mother of three, including one child with multiple disabilities, which has deepened my commitment to meeting the diverse needs of all learners. I'm excited to continue growing professionally and am especially looking forward to learning more about the OG approach and putting it into practice to help students succeed.



Lauren: I have been teaching in NYC for 22 years. I am a mother of two boys, one of whom is dyslexic. Since he has started OG I have seen such growth in him and more importantly his confidence is soaring. I am excited to start this journey and help other children like my son who struggle with reading, writing and poor confidence.



Ann: Since retiring, I've been teaching ELL through Literacy Nassau—work that has been incredibly rewarding. I supported my own child through early reading challenges, which sparked a lasting interest in helping others. I'm excited to learn the OG approach to help children overcome reading difficulties with greater confidence and less frustration.



Susan: As a Special Education Teacher with 25 years of experience, I've had the privilege of teaching students with autism in a classroom setting and then with students with disabilities in a resource room. Teaching students to read is my passion, and I am looking forward to learning OG. Developing a strong reader is a team effort, and I am excited to collaborate with Literacy Nassau, you, and your child.



Katia: I am a dedicated special education educator with over 15 years of experience, driven by a deep passion for both academic achievement and Social Emotional Learning. I am a Special Education Instructional Lead at the middle school level. I'm a proud mom of twin girls and we cherish traveling and hosting epic game nights filled with laughter and connection. I'm excited about the opportunity to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of students and families.

**BEST
OF
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BEST**

ORTON-GILLINGHAM IS KNOWN AS THE GOLD STANDARD FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK YOUR PROVIDER'S CREDENTIALS. CERTIFICATION THROUGH THE ORTON-GILLINGHAM ACADEMY IS A RIGOROUS PROCESS INCLUDING TRAINING, TUTORING PRACTICUM, AND A LENGTHY APPLICATION.

ALL LITERACY NASSAU TUTORS MEET THAT GOLD STANDARD.

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