



# THE OG UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2026

## 2026-2027 ORTON-GILLINGHAM COHORT

(submitted by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

This year, we're doing something a little different! Based on the needs of the children who registered for donation-based tutoring, I decided to split my teaching time between a smaller Associate level trainee group and a second Clinical level training group. This month, we're excited to introduce you to our new Associate level trainees. Read on for their bios!

### MEET JULIE

My educational and professional background has centered on counseling, education, and helping individuals achieve their academic, personal, and career goals. I earned both my Bachelors of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Sociology and my Master of Science in Education with a specialization in School Counseling from Queens College.

Throughout my career, I worked as a high school guidance counselor, supported individuals with autism at Giant Step Services, and spent over 12 years as Supervisor of Guidance, ESL, and GED Departments for the Great Neck Public School District. I also worked as a Lead Career Consultant with Career Employment Opportunities, where I provided career counseling, taught career development skills, and helped students prepare for employment. I have also earned my Career Counselor and Life Coach Certification and remain committed to supporting individuals in reaching meaningful goals.

I am eager to begin the next chapter of my professional development through OG training. I look forward to learning this structured, sequential, and multi-sensory approach to literacy instruction and gaining new skills to support individuals with dyslexia and other reading challenges. This training will allow me to continue expanding how I support learners.



### MEET CHRIS

I am a licensed Special Education Teacher. I'm excited to work with students using the Orton-Gillingham method. I have been teaching in NYC Public schools for over 10 years & spent 2 years as a parent coordinator. I have taught in public schools across Latin America, teaching in Costa Rica, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. I have also been teaching Adult ESL classes at Literacy Nassau. Before teaching, I spent 10 years working with children for a nonprofit organization directing after school programs, as well as the largest summer camp in NYC. I have over 20 years of experience working with young people. I believe it is my life's mission to teach, support, empower, and hopefully inspire the next generation, in the same way I was, but also in the ways that I wasn't.



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**Evening OG  
tutoring begins  
on  
Monday,  
September 14**

**Daytime OG  
tutoring hours  
only on  
Monday,  
September 21**

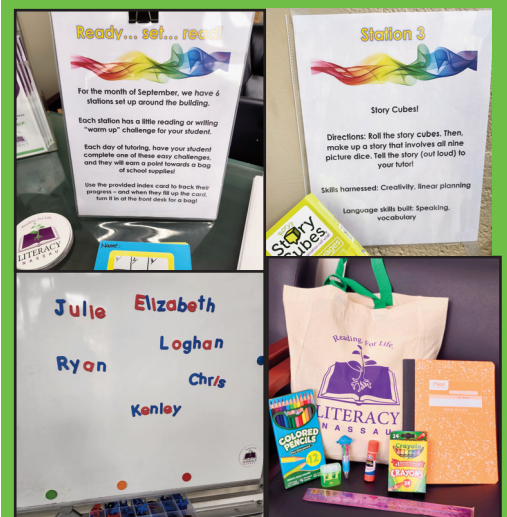
## READY, SET, READ!

This September's theme is Ready, Set, Read! In honor of the new school year, this theme is our version of a reading pep rally, a chance to really get our students excited about everything they're about to learn and achieve this year!

In Orton-Gillingham, the most important tenet of everything we do is to create an emotionally sound experience of success. This month, we've done that by coming up with fun activity stations around the building to serve as "challenges" for our OG kids. Tutors and students will find these stations tucked away in corners of our office, like a scavenger hunt! Activities such as alphabetizing a bank of letter tiles or counting out the syllables in a series of words are a nice, easy way to ensure some early wins this year.

Every time a child completes a station, they get a stamp on a score card. Once they earn six stamps, they'll win a Literacy Nassau tote bag filled with school supplies!

What a fun way to kick off the school year!



## OG COHORT (CONTINUED)

Growing up, I recognized early that there were not many people who I could identify with in many of my educational spaces, aside from my classmates. I can remember thinking something was strange about that, while also wanting to represent and be in the same positions. My journey to becoming an educator was an interesting one. The pathway was rocky and full of ups and downs; I had many struggles as a student, yet I remained resilient. I hope to connect with some of our learners through my own personal struggles while building resilience within them through support and empathy.

### **MEET ELIZABETH**

I am a special education teacher. After more than 30 years of teaching I still feel very fortunate to still make a difference in the lives of children. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work with students with a variety of learning needs, including emotional and developmental delays and different levels of academic ability. I have always enjoyed getting to know my students as individuals and finding ways to help each child feel successful, both academically and personally.

Over the years, I have learned that there is no single way to teach a child. Every student learns differently, and sometimes it takes patience, creativity, and trying several different approaches to find what works best. I have experience with differentiated instruction, IEPs, collaboration with teachers and families, and creating a classroom where students feel safe, supported, and encouraged.

I am very excited to begin my Orton-Gillingham Associate journey this year. After so many years in education, I still believe that there is always more to learn. I have worked with many students who struggle with reading, and I want to deepen my understanding of how children learn to read and how I can better support them. I am especially interested in the structured and multisensory approach of Orton-Gillingham and the opportunity to add new strategies to my teaching.

I am looking forward to learning, growing, and sharing this experience as an educator. Most of all, I know this journey will give me even more tools to help my students become confident and successful readers.



### **MEET ANNE-MARIE**

I am currently a Reading Teacher in the Westbury UFSD, where I help students develop their literacy skills to become confident readers. I am certified in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Literacy. Throughout my teaching career I have been passionate about supporting students who struggle with reading.

My love of literacy began not only through my professional experiences, but also as a parent. I have three children, all now in their twenties, and some of my favorite memories are of teaching them to read and watching their confidence grow as they discovered the fun of books. Those experiences reinforced for me how important it is for every child to have the right instruction and the opportunity to experience success as a reader.

I am excited to continue with my Orton-Gillingham journey with Literacy Nassau as I work towards my Associate level certification. I believe the OG approach is a powerful, explicit, systematic, and multisensory approach that can make a meaningful difference for struggling readers. I am eager to learn how to apply these principles more effectively in my own teaching and to gain the skills and confidence to provide students with instruction that meets their individual needs.

I look forward to this year of learning, growing, and collaborating with other educators who share my passion for literacy and for helping every child become a successful reader.



## LEFT BEHIND: WHEN PARENTS CREATE CHANGE

What happens when parents realize that the educational system isn't meeting their children's needs? For a group of New York City mothers, the answer was to create change themselves.

The 2024 documentary *Left Behind*, directed by Anna Toomey, follows a group of mothers whose children have dyslexia. Frustrated by the lack of appropriate support and specialized instruction available through the public school system, the mothers came together to advocate for something new: a public school designed specifically for students with dyslexia.

Their efforts led to the creation of the South Bronx Literacy Academy, which opened in September 2023 as New York City's first public school specifically serving students with dyslexia.



At its heart, *Left Behind* is not just a story about dyslexia. It is a story about parents who refused to accept that their children should struggle simply because they learn differently. The documentary highlights the challenges families face in navigating the education system while also showing what can happen when parents turn their frustration into action.

The film reminds us that children who struggle with reading are not defined by that struggle. With the right instruction, support, and understanding, students with dyslexia can thrive.

Most importantly, *Left Behind* shows the power of parent advocacy. What began as a group of mothers fighting for their own children grew into an effort that created new opportunities for countless others. It is a powerful reminder that sometimes meaningful change begins with a simple question: What if we could do better?

You can rent a copy of this incredible documentary for \$6.99 here: <https://kinema.com/films/left-behind-psng3h/rent>