

READING

In special education we use research based curriculum to program our SDI (specially designed instruction) for each individual student. Below are the programs we use and a brief summary of each program.

PHONICS

Phonics is a method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning to associate letters or letter groups with the sounds they represent. Once learners have learned the relationships of the letters to the sounds, they can pronounce printed words by blending the sounds together

READ NATURALLY

Read Naturally is a program that offers struggling readers a safe, structured, and highly motivating opportunity to engage in reading on a regular basis. The key to its success lies in its basis in three powerful, research-based strategies for improving fluency: teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring.

Teacher Modeling	With teacher modeling, a proficient reader models good, correct reading for a less able reader. Read Naturally incorporates teacher modeling by having students read along while listening to a professional recording of a high-interest story.
Repeated Reading	With repeated reading, the student reads a story of 100 to 200 words many times until they are able to read it fluently. In Read Naturally, students practice reading the story until they can read it at a pre-determined goal rate.
Progress Monitoring	Daily monitoring of student progress improves student achievement. Students become more involved in the learning process, and teachers can monitor each student's progress. In Read Naturally, students graph the number of words read correctly before practicing and then again after practicing. The positive reinforcement of seeing their progress motivates students to continue improving and increases their self-esteem.

SOAR to SUCCESS

Soar to Success is a research-based reading intervention program for students in grades 3-8 who are reading significantly below grade level. It is a small-group model that uses motivating literature, reciprocal teaching, and graphic organizers in fast-paced lessons to help students in grades 3-8 accelerate their reading growth.

FAST ForWORD

Fast ForWord is a computer based 50 minute protocol/per day reading intervention program. Fast ForWord develops and strengthen the cognitive skills of memory, attention, processing, and sequencing. These are essential for academic learning and reading success. The strengthening of these skills results in a wide range of improved critical language and reading skills such as phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, decoding, working memory, syntax, grammar and other skills necessary to learn to read or become a better reader.

READING AT HOME

We know that home is a place where children should have many opportunities to learn and practice reading. Many fun experiences can be shared together at home to encourage and support reading development. Following are some basic principles that can be done at home to support reading development.

- ✚ Let your children see you read and write often. When parents value reading and writing, their children will view them with pleasure.
- ✚ Recognize and encourage pre-reading skills such as a child's recognition of a fast food restaurant by its symbol or his retelling a story to go with a book from memory.
- ✚ Repetition of favorite books offers benefits for children; they are learning prediction and sequencing concepts. Only you are tired of the same book.
- ✚ Continue reading orally to children long after they are reading on their own. Children learn expression, increase their vocabulary, improve listening skills and enjoy time with you.
- ✚ Provide lots of reading materials at home. Make sure that books, magazines, etc. are readily available in various areas of the home.
- ✚ Make reading time a priority. With busy schedules, it is easy for reading to get pushed aside for other activities. Reading is a skill and is improved with practice. Research shows us that children who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading are more likely to become good readers.
- ✚ Plan family reading time when the entire family reads together either aloud or silently.
- ✚ Make frequent trips to the library. This can be an enjoyable outing for your family and a time when adults can role model checking out books to read for pleasure. Remember to check out books that coordinate with a trip or events in your child's life. Children love books relevant to their experiences.
- ✚ Consider giving books as gifts. This sends a positive message that books are fun and exciting.
- ✚ Identify authors of books when you read. Children quickly pick up on favorite authors and writing styles.
- ✚ Encourage your child to write their own books and recognize them as an author.

Sharing learning experiences brings parents and children together. When parents help their child with reading, they are increasing the child's potential for academic success across the curriculum.