

COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:

The Scottish Rite Learning Centre for Children opened in 2006 with the mission of providing free Orton Gillingham training to tutors and free, remedial tutoring to children identified with dyslexia, a language based learning disability which impacts aspects of reading, writing and spelling. These highly trained volunteer tutors provide two, one-hour, tutoring sessions to children each week. Each child moves at their own pace with lessons that are planned especially for them. We currently have 38 volunteer tutors working with 52 children, aged 6-17. Not surprisingly, we have a waiting list of over 200 families hoping to receive our services but there is also a waiting list of potential tutors, hoping to receive the training. This is an incredible community of learners - on both sides of the table - one which is transformative and gratitude laden.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

We know that approximately 30 percent of students in Nova Scotia fail to meet the outcomes for reading by grade 3. Longitudinal studies have also shown that students who have difficulty learning to read by grade 3, continue to experience difficulty throughout their school years (Buckingham & Castles, 2019); this often leads to lower economic and social opportunities once they reach adulthood (Jamieson, 2009). Research has shown that an explicit approach to teaching early reading skills works with most students, not just those who struggle (Moats, 1994). The Orton Gillingham (OG) method uses an explicit, systematic, multisensory approach to teach reading. Through interviews with the staff, volunteers and tutors with the Scottish Rite association, the research findings will provide the perspectives of the trained tutors about the strengths of their training and their recommendations for change and growth. The guiding research questions will be: What drew you to take the Orton-Gillingham training at the Scottish Rite Learning Centre.

PROJECTED BENEFITS:

This research will provide information to our Board of Directors about our program from the perspectives of the Director, mentors and tutors. It will allow us to share our mission, our stories, and our successes with a wider audience. This research has the potential to show how tutors trained in the Orton Gillingham method could support children in other settings such as public schools and afterschool programs that provide tutoring to children. This would help us to support more children than we are able to now.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal from 2021.