

orton gillingham training for parents

Orton Gillingham training for parents offers a unique opportunity for caregivers to engage actively in their child's literacy development. This structured approach to teaching reading and writing skills is particularly beneficial for children with learning differences, such as dyslexia. As parents become more familiar with the principles and techniques of the Orton-Gillingham method, they can better support their children in overcoming challenges related to reading and writing. This article will delve into the essentials of Orton-Gillingham training for parents, its benefits, and practical strategies to implement at home.

Understanding the Orton-Gillingham Approach

The Orton-Gillingham approach is a comprehensive, multisensory method designed to teach reading, writing, and spelling to students with language-based learning disabilities. Developed in the 1930s by Dr. Samuel Orton and educator Anna Gillingham, this approach is grounded in structured language principles and emphasizes the following key elements:

Multisensory Learning

- Visual: Incorporating diagrams, color-coded letters, and charts to aid memory.
- Auditory: Using sounds and phonemes in tandem with visual elements.
- Kinesthetic: Engaging physical activities, such as writing letters in sand or using letter tiles to spell words.

Structured and Sequential Instruction

The Orton-Gillingham approach follows a systematic framework, ensuring that students build upon their existing knowledge. This method typically includes:

1. Phonemic Awareness: Recognizing and manipulating sounds in words.
2. Phonics: Understanding the relationship between letters and sounds.
3. Fluency: Developing the ability to read smoothly and quickly.
4. Vocabulary: Expanding word knowledge and usage.
5. Comprehension: Enhancing understanding of texts.

Individualized Learning

Each child's learning profile is unique, and the Orton-Gillingham approach

allows for personalized instruction tailored to individual needs. This adaptability is crucial for addressing specific challenges and strengths.

The Importance of Training for Parents

Parent involvement is vital in reinforcing the skills learned in the classroom. By participating in Orton Gillingham training for parents, caregivers can gain a deeper understanding of the methodology and learn practical strategies to support their child's literacy journey.

Empowerment Through Knowledge

- Enhanced Understanding: Parents learn about the challenges their children face and how the Orton-Gillingham approach can help.
- Effective Communication: Gaining insights into the teaching strategies used allows parents to communicate more effectively with educators.

Consistent Reinforcement at Home

Training equips parents with the tools to reinforce learning outside of school, fostering an environment of consistency. This reinforcement can include:

1. Daily Reading Practices: Setting aside time for reading, focusing on both fluency and comprehension.
2. Spelling and Writing Activities: Engaging in fun, multisensory spelling games that align with the Orton-Gillingham principles.
3. Homework Support: Helping children with their homework using the techniques learned in training.

Building a Supportive Environment

Creating a nurturing home environment is essential for children with learning differences. Through training, parents can learn how to:

- Encourage a Growth Mindset: Fostering resilience and a positive attitude toward challenges.
- Celebrate Small Victories: Acknowledging progress, no matter how minor, to boost confidence.

Key Components of Orton-Gillingham Training for Parents

While each training program may differ, several core components are typically included in Orton Gillingham training for parents.

Workshops and Seminars

These sessions often provide foundational knowledge about dyslexia and other learning disabilities, as well as an overview of the Orton-Gillingham approach. Parents can expect to engage in discussions, ask questions, and share experiences with other caregivers.

Hands-On Practice

Many training programs incorporate practical exercises that allow parents to experience the teaching techniques firsthand. This might include:

- Role-Playing: Simulating tutoring sessions to practice teaching strategies.
- Interactive Activities: Engaging in multisensory learning exercises that parents can replicate at home.

Resource Provision

Parents are often provided with a wealth of resources to aid their journey, such as:

1. Handouts and Guides: Summaries of key concepts and strategies.
2. Books and Materials: Recommendations for literature and teaching tools that align with the Orton-Gillingham approach.
3. Online Resources: Access to websites, videos, and forums for ongoing support and learning.

Practical Strategies for Parents

Once trained, parents can implement a variety of strategies at home to supplement their child's learning.

Creating a Multisensory Learning Environment

- Use of Manipulatives: Incorporate tools like letter tiles, sandpaper letters, or chalkboards for tactile engagement.
- Incorporate Technology: Use educational apps and websites that focus on phonics and reading skills.

Daily Reading Practices

- Read Aloud: Spend time reading together, discussing the content and asking open-ended questions to enhance comprehension.
- Sight Word Games: Create flashcards for sight words and play matching games to reinforce recognition.

Encouraging Writing Skills

- Journaling: Encourage children to keep a daily journal to express their thoughts and practice writing.
- Creative Storytelling: Use pictures or prompts to inspire storytelling, helping children practice narrative skills.

Conclusion

Orton Gillingham training for parents is an invaluable resource for those looking to support their child's literacy development effectively. By understanding the principles of the Orton-Gillingham approach and implementing practical strategies at home, parents can create a nurturing and supportive environment that encourages learning and growth. With dedication and the right tools, parents can help their children navigate the challenges of reading and writing, paving the way for academic success and a lifelong love of learning.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Orton-Gillingham training and how can it benefit parents?

Orton-Gillingham training is a structured, systematic approach to teaching reading and writing that is especially effective for children with dyslexia. For parents, this training provides strategies to support their child's learning at home, helping them to reinforce skills and improve literacy

development.

Is Orton-Gillingham training suitable for all children or just those with learning disabilities?

While Orton-Gillingham training is particularly beneficial for children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities, it can be effective for all children, especially those who may struggle with reading. The multisensory approach can enhance learning for any child needing extra support.

What resources are available for parents to learn about Orton-Gillingham methods?

Parents can find various resources, including online courses, workshops, webinars, and books specifically designed for Orton-Gillingham training. Many organizations and educational institutions offer materials and programs tailored for parents to help them implement these strategies at home.

How long does it take for parents to become proficient in Orton-Gillingham techniques?

The time it takes for parents to become proficient in Orton-Gillingham techniques varies based on the individual's commitment and the depth of training pursued. Basic competency can be achieved through short workshops, while more comprehensive understanding may require several months of study and practice.

Can Orton-Gillingham training help with subjects other than reading?

Yes, while Orton-Gillingham is primarily focused on reading and writing, the skills and strategies learned can also benefit other subjects that require strong literacy skills, such as history and science. The emphasis on structured learning and critical thinking can enhance overall academic performance.

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