

Asheville Augustine Project

Providing free, long-term, 1-on-1 literacy tutoring for low-income children & teens

Mission Statement

The mission of the Augustine Project is to improve the academic achievement and thereby the self esteem of low-income children and teens who struggle with literacy skills. The project trains tutors who provide these students free, 1-to-1, long-term, instruction in reading, writing and spelling. The Augustine Training Program is a derivative of Orton-Gillingham, and like Project Read, Wilson, or Slingerland, this is a structured, multisensory, phonetic teaching approach that the research has proven to work with those who have language related learning difficulties. Lessons use Wilson Reading System materials and include the five essential components of research-based reading instruction as defined by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

The Need

- ★ 17-22% of school aged children have reading problems; among low income families the percentage is likely higher. In 2000, the National Assessment of Educational Progress found 67% of African American 4th graders to be functionally illiterate.
- ★ Children do not outgrow poor reading; 74% of poor readers in 3rd grade are still poor readers in 9th grade
- ★ 57% of children with learning disabilities leave school without a diploma
- ★ Three-fourths of juvenile offenders have a reading difficulty and prison populations include a large percentage of non-readers
- ★ For 90% of poor readers, early, intensive intervention can increase reading ability to an age-appropriate, average skill level

Tutor Training

Literacy Council of Buncombe County tutors receive 70 hours of training before they are assigned an Augustine child. The two week training class includes a practicum during which the trainee evaluates a student, and then teaches five consecutive multi-sensory lessons under the supervision of a practicum tutor. The course is taught by a team of experienced trainers who present such topics as the definition and characteristics of dyslexia; the history and principles of Orton-Gillingham; phonological awareness; phonology (including sounds, syllable types and spelling rules); screening instruments and procedures; sight words; cursive handwriting; phonics games and activities; decoding, fluency and comprehension; vocabulary; written expression and advocacy. Wilson® materials guide the lesson planning process.

Orientation Dates: May 14th 5:30-7:00pm and May 30 9:00-10:30 am at LCBC

Dates: July 16th – 27th 2012, 9:00-4:00, no classes on the weekend

Location: Randolph Learning Center, 90 Montford Ave. Asheville, 28801

Cost: \$200. with the commitment to provide 60 hours of free tutoring

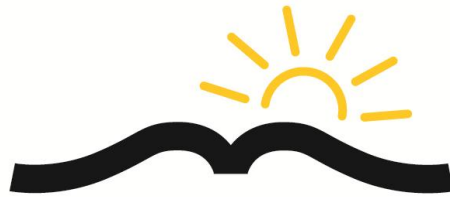
RSVP: email literacytutors@litcouncil.com or call (828) 254-3442 x. 204

Tutors' Responsibilities

Upon satisfactory completion of the training course, trainees are assigned a student and commit to provide that student at least 60 free individualized literacy lessons. Tutoring usually takes place twice a week – some tutors see their children more frequently – at the child's school during the school day. Lessons last about 50 minutes. Tutors may borrow phonetically controlled books and other materials from the Literacy Council library and are encouraged to call the project director or their practicum supervisor for advice. A “lunch bunch” meeting where tutors and trainers can share lesson planning ideas is scheduled every-other month. The project director and/or a practicum supervisor observes each trainee in the course of his or her tutoring. The trainee administers pre and post testing in phonological awareness, rapid naming, fluency, comprehension and spelling.

Our Students

Augustine students are referred to the program by parents, guardians, teachers, school counselors, specialists, and psychologists. We work with low-income students in grades one through 12 who struggle with reading or written language. We do not require that a student meet the 15 point ability/achievement discrepancy to be assigned a tutor. The director maintains a waiting list of eligible students. If you would like to recommend a student for services, please email Becca@litcouncil.com or call (828) 254-3442 x. 202.



literacycouncil

OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Today a Reader. Tomorrow a Leader.