

Orton-Gillingham Training for Teachers

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Orton-Gillingham teacher training offered by the Michigan Dyslexia Institute. Here you will find some basic information about the training and what it involves.

Currently the State of Michigan is beginning to address dyslexia and the need for a better understanding of this learning difficulty that affects between 10 and 20 percent of our children. The State has also become aware that there is a need to better equip teachers in recognizing children with reading difficulties and in strategies for teaching these children. This 30-hour course will address these issues as well as teach how to use the Orton-Gillingham approach to teach all children how to read and write with success. The training meets the standards set by the Orton-Gillingham Academy for the Classroom Teacher Course of study. The O-G Approach has been effective not only for children with dyslexia but has been proven effective in teaching all children. The training, materials, and content are paid for by a grant from the State of Michigan to MDI.

Course Content

In this course we will cover the following:

- What is Dyslexia?
 - Definition of dyslexia
 - Learning problems of individuals with dyslexia
 - How to recognize the characteristics of dyslexia in the classroom
- Where to begin?
 - History of the alphabet and the alphabetic principle
 - Phonological and phonemic awareness
 - Writing and teaching a diagnostic lesson
- How to teach using the Orton-Gillingham approach?
 - Articulation of speech sounds
 - Multi-sensory teaching
 - Explicit teaching of decoding and encoding skills
 - Syllable types, syllable division, spelling patterns and rules
 - Writing lesson plans
 - Diagnostic/Prescriptive teaching

The O-G Approach can be used with a variety of curriculum materials to address the specific needs of a child or group of children. Many of the techniques and strategies can be used to teach key reading and writing skills to large groups.

Course Requirements

The course will be taught over a period of five days. We recommend three segments of 2 days each to be completed within a one-month period. For districts in or near the Lansing area, we recommend one day per week for 5 consecutive weeks. Instruction for all options will be done in person at the school district location.

Several homework assignments are required for the class. Some are completed during class time, and others are done outside of class. The purpose of the homework is two-fold. One reason is to provide for monitoring and evaluation to determine the effect of the training. The second purpose is to assist the participants in integrating their learning through various activities. Upon completion of the course and all assignments, the participants will receive a certificate of completion of the Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator course, 30 hours.

A six-month follow-up period of consultation is included. The follow-up includes five hours of coaching, school visits, or consultation by a supervising mentor. Coaching and consultation may be by ZOOM, in person, or email correspondence.

Participants

The course is designed for classroom teachers and other professionals who work with students in reading and writing, either individually, in small groups, or in the general classroom. It is our desire to permeate a school and train all the teachers and specialists who will be working with a group of children between the grades of approximately K-3. The rationale is to ensure that the students are getting the same instruction and using the same strategies over time, with the expectation that reading and writing scores will improve significantly as a result.

Due to the interactive nature of the training, groups are limited to a maximum of 50. The ideal group size is 20-40 participants.

Contact Information

Susan Berends Medendorp, Fellow/OGA

Smedendorp@lansing.dyslexia.net

517-999-8691 (work)

Michigan Dyslexia Institute

532 E. Shiawassee Street

Lansing, Michigan 48912

531-485-4000