

**LEARNING ALLY TIP SHEET:**  
**How to Find the Right Reading Tutor**

Finding the right tutor to help improve your child's reading skills is an important decision to make. If you know your child is dyslexic and has been struggling with reading to the point where it is affecting their confidence, then you should look for help.

The reading tutor should be an expert in dyslexia, know at least one Orton-Gillingham-based Multisensory Structured Language Instruction program in depth, be sensitive to your child's struggles while pushing gently to strive for more, and communicate well with you.

An in-person consultation and interview, as well as conversations with other families who have worked with the tutor, can help you tell if the relationship is a fit for your child and your family. You will likely make the best decision by speaking with a few tutors to get a sense of individual backgrounds, training and experience, as well as flexibility and communication styles.

Selecting a reading tutor is a very personal choice. It matters as much that you and your child connect with the tutor as it does to make sure the tutor understands dyslexia and is appropriately trained and certified. Ultimately, after gathering as much information as you can, you will need to trust your instincts that you and your child will feel comfortable and safe working with this person.

Below are several groups of questions for your use when interviewing a possible tutor. These questions cover topics such as the tutor's training specific to dyslexia, extent of experience tutoring students with dyslexia, logistics for setting up sessions and how to deal with schedule changes, interaction with parents and schools, cost and payment, references, and other factors.

**1. Questions about Tutor's Training Related to Dyslexia**

- Which Orton-Gillingham (OG) based Multisensory Structured Language (MSL) Instruction program do you use?
- Are you certified for this program?
- What are the different levels of certification related to your training and which level do you have?
- How long have you used this program?
- How do you teach the program with fidelity – for instance, do you follow the defined process, sequence and include all multisensory elements?
- How do you keep your skills fresh and up to date?
  - Do you take continuing education classes, attend conferences, read up on the latest research?
  - Are you a member of any reading or dyslexia-related organizations? Which ones?

**2. Questions about Tutor's Experience with Dyslexia**

- Do you help with homework or focus on reading remediation?
- What training or education related to "dyslexia" have you had?
- How long have you been tutoring students with dyslexia?
- How many students with dyslexia have you tutored?
- What ages and grades?

### **3. Questions about Tutoring Sessions**

- Does my child need a formal assessment or “diagnosis” in order for you to tutor him/her?
- Do you do an assessment before tutoring a student? What is involved?
- How many tutor sessions during the week do you recommend?
- How long is each session?
- When do you hold your sessions – early morning, after school, evenings, weekends?
- Where do we meet -- my home, your office, a public place (e.g., a library)?
- Is this one-on-one tutoring or otherwise? How many other students are tutored in a group setting and do these students have similar levels of need?
- Do you offer online tutoring? If yes, does that include video component?
- What happens if we have to change an appointment?
- Will I be expected to work with my child in between sessions? What should I be doing?
- What should my child do between sessions?

### **4. Questions about Results, Duration and Communication**

- When would you expect us to notice improvement?
- How long will the tutoring last (weeks, months, years)?
- How long can you commit to working with my child?
- How often will you provide feedback to me on my child’s progress and in what format?
- Do you interact with the child’s school and teachers?
- Will you speak with my child’s school if needed?

### **5. Questions about Cost and Payment**

- What is your fee?
- What is your payment arrangement?
- Do you offer a free consultation to meet me and my child?
- What should we expect at a consultation?

### **6. Request for References**

- May I speak with a few of your prior and current clients?

*Learning Ally does not endorse individual tutors and provides this only as a resource aid. Individuals are responsible for choosing their own tutors and the results they achieve. Please carefully research any tutor before selecting one to work with you or your child.*

To find a reading tutor, [visit Learning Ally’s Reading Tutor Network](#).