



# ***Connections that Work*** for **Reading, Writing & Spelling**

If your child is behind in reading, writing, and spelling school will be a struggle.

If your child hasn't learned to read well using the techniques already taught, he/she isn't going to catch up using those same techniques.

## **We can help!**

We work with students who struggle with language and math, and we specialize in helping students who are performing one or more years below their grade level in reading, writing and spelling.

## ***Connections that Work***

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“When I saw Rob reading The Hobbit in bed for the first time I cried. It was the first book he read for pleasure in ALL his 17 years.”

*Diane B. Anchorage , Alaska 07/2006*

“Thanks for making fourth grade so much easier for all of us.”

*Wendy F. Anchorage , Alaska 06/2006*

Students who struggle in school often have not mastered the basic skills needed to be successful readers and writers. These deficits can even affect the student’s math ability since today’s schools expect students to explain how they arrive at their answers. Two important ingredients that are research based that help struggling learners are:

**phonemic awareness instruction** (The awareness that language is composed into small sounds and the ability to manipulate these sounds.)

**multi-sensory instruction-** (hearing, seeing & feeling sounds)

If your child hasn’t learned to read well using the techniques already taught, they aren’t going to catch up using those same techniques. In spite of the wealth of research demonstrating that students need phonemic awareness many schools still do not teach this vital skill. Phonemic awareness must be explicitly taught to struggling readers and spellers even before phonics instruction begins. Otherwise, phonics will not make sense to most students with reading difficulties.

Research also shows that most students with reading difficulties will continue to struggle with reading, spelling and comprehension until a multi-sensory method is used for intervention. Those learners not reading in third grade will not be reading in 5th or 9th without intensive efforts that incorporate phonemic awareness and multi-sensory teaching. This type of strong, multi-sensory learning experience will finally make sense to readers where many other methods have not.

### ***The brain’s language and reading centers actually change after intensive multi-sensory instruction.***

Phonemic awareness: the ability to hear, manipulate, and identify sounds in spoken words.

Phonics: the relationship between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language.

Fluency: the capacity to read text accurately and quickly.

Vocabulary: the words students must know to communicate effectively.

Comprehension: the ability to understand and gain meaning from what has been read.

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## **Connections that Work offers multi-sensory methods which include:**

Lindamood-Bell™

Orton-Gillingham

Slingerland®

Reading Plus®

Read Naturally™

The Writing Institute™

On Cloud Nine Math©

Handwriting Interventions using Corel™ Painter

**Initial Testing** The price for initial testing is \$300, which includes a consultation and a written report.

We administer standardized tests to evaluate written language comprehension, phonological awareness, reading fluency, spelling and written expression.

Testing time is approximately 2.5 -3.0 hours. This may be broken into two sessions as needed. You will receive a written report detailing results, recommendations, and a free consultation.

We re-test our clients after every 60 to 80 hours of treatment, at a price equal to a regular tutoring session. This includes testing and a phone consultation to discuss progress. Ongoing mini-screenings occur to guide our tutoring.

**Tutoring Pricing** Our hourly rate is \$50/hour.

**One-to-one Tutoring** Connections that Work offers a team of experienced and highly qualified staff to provide your child with one-to-one specialized

instruction. All instruction is personalized and based on assessments. Our teaching techniques are highly effective for efficient remediation, even for students behind more than 1 year in reading.

Because of the intensive nature of the program, repetition is essential for good results. We recommend that children attend classes four days a week. We offer one-hour, two-hour and three-hour sessions arranged to meet your schedule. Winter hours are 10 AM to 8 PM M-Thu. and summer hours are 8 AM to 6 PM M-F. (Some of our younger students have gone to their regular schools half days and spent the other half in our program for 6-8 weeks.)

**How long will your child need to be tutored?** This varies, as no two learners are alike. Some children can achieve their reading goals in 40 hours. Some take up to 120 hours or more. Test results will determine a recommendation for number of tutoring hours. If you feel your child is a good candidate for additional hours online, please discuss that option with us and we’ll assess his or her readiness.

**Payment:** We request that testing and tutoring be paid for in advance. We offer various payment options. We work hard to negotiate a satisfactory contract for all.

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