



SPECIAL CLASS READING PROGRAM



The Special Class Reading Program utilizes the Wilson Reading System (WRS), which is a highly structured program based on Orton-Gillingham principles as well as current reading research. It was developed specifically for students beyond grade 3, and is used widely with middle school students, adolescents and adults. Originally written for older individuals with dyslexia, WRS is appropriate for all students who have not internalized the sound and symbol system for reading and spelling. These students may or may not have been diagnosed as dyslexic. WRS has proven to be successful with:

- students who are unable to decode words effectively
- slow labored readers, who lack fluency
- students who rely upon memorization for reading, and who are unable to read unfamiliar or new words
- students who often guess at words
- poor spellers
- students who have been unsuccessful with other reading programs, or who continue to have gaps in their decoding and/or spelling abilities

The Wilson Reading System is a 12-Step reading and writing program. It directly and systematically teaches students how to fluently and accurately decode. Students also learn to encode (spell) as they learn to decode. From the beginning steps of the program, WRS also includes sight word instruction, vocabulary, oral expressive language development, and comprehension. Visualization techniques are used for comprehension. Mastery, including fluent application, is required for progression at each step.

WRS is unlike traditional phonics programs in that instruction is very interactive and multi-sensory. Students learn by hearing sounds; manipulating color-coded magnetic phoneme tiles, and sound, syllable, and word cards; performing finger-tapping exercises; writing down spoken words and sentences; reading aloud, repeating what they have read in their own words, and hearing others read as well. Skills and knowledge are reinforced through visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile senses.

Overall, the goal of this program is to help students become fluent, independent readers, ready to explore the endless possibilities the world of reading has to offer.