About Us

RSW Group operates under the Oregon nonprofit the Language and Literacy Fund. RSW Group is comprised of literacy specialists, special education teachers, academic language therapists and educational diagnosticians all of whom have extensive training and experience working with students who may or may not have been diagnosed with dyslexia and/or other learning differences. The specialists of RSW Group are employed by the Language and Literacy Fund to support teachers who provide reading, spelling and writing instruction in the K-12 setting.

The Language and Literacy Fund was founded to support and strengthen the reading, spelling and writing skills of adult learners in the community college setting. A scholarship is offered to eligible students for regular attendance. The Language and Literacy Fund Instructors volunteer their time and expertise to teach these classes.

RSW Group is committing a portion of all receipts from its training courses to the Language and Literacy Fund scholarships offered to eligible students.
The workshops are based on the Orton-Gillingham approach. This approach is multisensory (auditory, visual and kinesthetic, i.e., letter formation and writing through dictation), structured, sequential and cumulative. Teachers will learn to apply the principles of Orton-Gillingham with dyslexic students and all students who struggle to learn to read, spell and write.

The approach is phonics based and includes spelling rules and generalizations, concept of syllables, syllable divisions, morphology (prefixes, suffixes, roots/base words), reading fluency (accuracy, rate and prosody) and automaticity, vocabulary, semantics, syntax, comprehension and writing. Intrinsic to the training is the ability to spiral back to earlier instruction in order to layer increasingly higher-level knowledge and practices.

A guiding principle of the training is that it is student-focused. This is a critical component of the workshops. We believe that a deep knowledge of the essential components of effective reading instruction is necessary; however, this knowledge is not sufficient until the learning abilities and differences of each student are also understood.

All training is customized to the student population to be supported and to the teachers who will support them. We recognize that many school districts use or will use the Balanced Literacy curricula for reading instruction. RSW Group training is based on the Structured Literacy or the Orton-Gillingham approach. We believe and are committed to demonstrating how Balanced and Structured Literacy dovetail to meet the needs of all students in reading instruction.
Initially the workshops include 25-30% participant practice and application; however, as training builds the expectation is that participant practice and application will increase to 65-70%.

Workshops practice/application will include the following:

- Practice lessons delivered between participants (peer coaching);
- Videotaped practice lessons delivered to group;
- Informal quizzes;
- Constructing, analyzing, reflecting, evaluating and synthesizing knowledge and practices in small and whole group(s).

Together with school districts’ benchmark and screening assessments, RSW Group will provide instruction and practice using the following tools:

- Giving and interpreting informal phonological screenings;
- Giving and interpreting informal reading and spelling assessments;
- Scope and sequence in lesson planning;
- Progress monitoring and prescriptive lesson design;
- Flexible decision making during delivery of lesson; and,
- Recognizing individual student needs.
A STRUCTURED AND MULTISENSORY APPROACH TO LITERACY SUPPORT

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Cost

RSW Group will hold the workshops at a space determined by the school/district. We recommend that participants in a Kindergarten-3rd grade setting attend five workshops, which may be scheduled on consecutive days or throughout the year.

Cost for each workshop: $300 (6 hours)

Maximum number of participants: 20 per cohort

Total cost per participant for five workshops: $1,500 **

RSW Group transportation and all resources are included.

** The series of five workshops is recommended for participants in a Kindergarten-3rd grade setting; however, all workshops are customized to participants’ needs and may range from one to five workshops. It may also include follow-up and feedback as needed.
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WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Included Resources


*Language at the Speed of Sight*, Mark Seidenberg (2017) (excerpts)

*National Reading Panel Report* (NICHD) (2000) (excerpts)


*Resources for A Structured and Multisensory Approach to Literacy Support*, Language and Literacy Fund and RSW Group (2017) (includes Sound Cards pack)

*Unlocking the Power of Print*, Dorothy Blosser Whitehead (1993)
RSW Group Workshops satisfy the following Oregon Standards for Professional Learning

**Learning Communities:** RSW Group will guide and support participants within their school’s current or developing Multi-Tiered Support System as it impacts successful implementation of the Response to Intervention Model. This support may be on-site and in whole group, small group and/or one-on-one.

**Leadership:** RSW Group trainings will use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model in its workshops. Information and materials will be presented through direct instruction, guided instruction, independent practice and collaborative learning with the expectation that all or parts of this model will be transferred and utilized at school sites in guiding teachers and delivering resources.

**Resources:** See attached “Included Resources”. Additional time for follow up and support is available and will be determined by RSW Group and individual schools.

**Data:** RSW Group recognizes that the Response to Intervention Model requires universal screeners, differentiated instruction, tiered levels of intervention, progress monitoring, and data based decision-making. It is RSW Group’s commitment to provide participants with the necessary tools for appropriate instruction, to effectively monitor student progress, implement interventions and confidently interpret data in making instructional decisions. These tools include, but are not limited to, existing school benchmarking and screening assessments and informal screeners, which RSW Group has found to be useful.
A STRUCTURED AND MULTISENSORY APPROACH TO LITERACY SUPPORT

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

RSW Group Workshops satisfy the following Oregon Standards for Professional Learning

Learning Designs: Successful Learning Design requires deep knowledge of how the English language is organized, science behind how brains process text and teaching in a diagnostic and prescriptive manner. Armed with this deeper knowledge of reading instruction participants will be able to successfully differentiate reading instruction, be responsive to how/if their students are progressing and effectively communicate this information within their school community. Our goal is to guide, support and sustain best practices at each school site.

Implementation: RSW Group recognizes that sustaining this practice takes time and therefore offers additional follow up and support at school request. We recognize the need of additional support for participants at their school and are committed to the success of each school as it transitions to and incorporates best practices in literacy support for dyslexic and all struggling students. RSW Group will guide and support participants to guarantee successful implementation.

Outcomes: RSW Group is committed to the equitable distribution of its time, expertise and resources so that within each school district every school will receive the necessary training required for that student population and for the teachers who will support them.