



PORTLAND READING FOUNDATION

building reading skills

PORTLAND READING FOUNDATION WORKS PROGRAM

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VISION:

Children at-risk for reading failure will learn to read and meet third grade benchmarks.

Children who have not learned to read fluently by 4th grade are likely to fall further and further behind as they enter middle school. (Handbook of Reading Research, 1991.)

MISSION:

Portland Reading Foundation, in conjunction with metropolitan Portland schools, identifies children in the primary grades who are most at-risk for failing to learn to read, and intervenes, providing these children with scientifically based, multi-sensory reading instruction to ensure that each child has the opportunity to become a proficient reader.

OUR APPROACH:

- Partner with elementary schools serving low-income neighborhoods.
- Screen primary students to identify those most at-risk for failing to learn to read.
- Match at-risk students with professional reading specialists.
- Provide one-to-one and small group tutoring sessions three times per week.
- Use phonics-based, systematic multi-sensory strategies to improve fluency, comprehension, spelling, vocabulary, and writing.
- Train paraprofessionals and teachers in multi-sensory techniques that support struggling readers.

PARTICIPATING PORTLAND PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Chief Joseph ♦ Gregory Heights ♦ Humboldt ♦ Irvington ♦ Vernon ♦ Woodlawn

RESULTS:

- 75-80% of students at participating schools improved at least one grade level in decoding, fluency, and spelling after only six months of tutoring.
- At Woodlawn, of the 24 children entering the program below grade level, 70% tested above grade level after only six months of tutoring.

SUCCESS STORIES:

“The Works program provides an effective instructional strategy and intervention that truly makes a difference at our school.” – Kathy Jaffe, Principal, Chief Joseph Elementary

“Over half of the children who have participated in the [WORKS] program are now at or above grade level.” – Donald Meikle, Title I Specialist, Vernon Elementary

“Thank you for teaching me reading and not to say I’m stupid.” – Student, Woodlawn Elementary