



# Orton Gillingham Reading Specialists

*Learn to Love to Read*

## Online Sessions

There is no substitute for the quality of an in-person session. Working online can be a wonderful option for students to work from a more flexible location. However, it also comes with some challenges. Below are the requirements for making the most of online sessions:

- Be sure to have your student working in a **quiet place** that is free from any distractions (noise, toys, snacks, pets, siblings, etc.). They should be sitting up at a desk or table that is completely cleared, and it should be a comfortable height for writing.
- Have their **materials ready to go** at the start of the lesson. This includes their wordbook, spiral notebook or **lined** paper, pencil/pen, and reading material. All the materials should go on the floor next to them, and we will pick them up as needed.
- Part of our lesson plan includes reading aloud from a book. It is helpful if both the student and the teacher have a copy of the book. This makes it much easier to see the words that are being read. Your teacher will discuss available options to make this happen.
- Practice work takes place on the days in between sessions. Students read from a book for 15 minutes a day to an adult who can monitor. The teacher will also assign wordlists and/or worksheets to complete and read aloud; limit this to 10 minutes daily. Practice work can be emailed to you or a workbook can be sent home.
- The student should work on a **laptop computer**. It is important that the teachers are able to see the lists students are reading and the words they are writing, so it is helpful to be able to tip the screen down for a view of their wordbook or notebook. A tablet, such as an iPad, does not accommodate this well and should not be used.
- During the online session, an adult must be available to assist the student if any technical issues happen to arise.
- Students should **wear headphones or earbuds** in order to hear clearly. Teachers are often dictating words that sound very similar, so hearing each other clearly is critical.
- The software used for online sessions, Zoom, is taxing on the internet. It is important that the internet service that is being used has a strong and fast connection. Our staff is not trained in technology support, and we are unable to provide this as a service. The ability to handle the technical requirements of utilizing the online session option lies with the end user.
- Please let the front desk know the day before that session if your student is going to utilize the Zoom option.
- Online sessions are not appropriate for every student. Orton Gillingham Reading Specialists reserves the right to discontinue the online session option for a student at any time.