



OASIS High Impact Tutoring

A dynamic approach to help kids read better

OASIS, in partnership with Union Settlement Association, introduces an evidence-based approach to help high-need children read at grade level. With support from AT & T New York and other generous donors, the OASIS High Impact Tutoring Program will be launched in New York City Schools Community District 4 in East Harlem in 2011. Using the specially designed OASIS Tutoring curriculum, tutors and students will work together on language development and reading skills two to three times per week throughout the school year and in a new intensive summer intervention.

The value of increased mentor support for kids

Recent research by Washington University in St. Louis reveals that children who participate in multiple sessions with a reading tutor during the week have better reading outcomes on standardized reading tests. In response to this research, OASIS has created a high-impact model for recruiting, training and placing older adult volunteers who will tutor at-risk children in grades K-4 for up to three sessions per week. A child who struggles with reading is more likely to struggle in every other subject and to face academic and social challenges in school and throughout life. Students' academic struggles can trigger negative behaviors, discipline problems, absenteeism and non-promotion. Children reading at grade level by fourth grade will be less likely to struggle now and later on in their lives. Everyone benefits when young students succeed in school.



Keys to success

The High Impact model builds on the strong foundation of OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring, with the added value of increased contact throughout the week:

- **Building strong relationships:** The year-long, one-on-one relationship is central to the program and sets it apart from many other mentoring programs. These relationships enable tutors to tailor their sessions to the needs and situation of each student.
- **Partnering with teachers:** At-risk children will be identified by their teachers, and, with parental consent, paired with trained OASIS tutors.
- **Celebrating success:** Tutors learn how to create an environment where students achieve goals they can accomplish and small victories are recognized and celebrated.
- **Increasing contact:** Tutoring sessions will be offered two to three times per week for an entire school year. The OASIS high impact approach will improve positive outcomes because of the increased opportunities for tutor/student contact.

- **Continuing support through summer school activities:** Through intensive summer tutoring, students and tutors can continue their work together to ward off summer reading regression, the backward slide that students often experience when they are not engaged in summer reading activities.



Since 1989, OASIS tutors have helped more than 311,000 children nationwide improve their reading skills, academic performance and attitudes about learning. The program taps the potential of volunteers who have the time, patience and life experience to make a profound difference in the lives of children. Tutors overwhelmingly report that tutoring is one of the most rewarding things they have done, giving them new purpose in life.

Three components have contributed to the effectiveness of this intervention:

- A specific focus on building reading and language skills of 5 to 10 year old children
- A specifically developed curriculum and training program for the tutors, and
- An ongoing support plan for the tutors and schools.

Tutors participate in comprehensive training where they learn activities and techniques to help children learn. Activities use the whole range of communication skills—listening, talking, reading and writing—all necessary to develop language and build reading skill. Through regularly scheduled educational seminars, tutors receive on-going support, gather new ideas, solve problems, and share experiences.

In the 2010 nationwide annual evaluation, teachers reported strong outcomes for their students who were tutored:

96% reported improved confidence and self-esteem

93% reported improved attitude toward language arts

90% reported improved academic performance

Outcomes for the OASIS High Impact Summer School pilot project showed that 63% of participating students maintained their school year-end reading levels. Of those, 67% not only maintained their reading levels, but progressed toward the next grade level.

Last year through partnerships with 100 school districts across the country, 5750 OASIS tutors worked with more than 20,000 children. The program, which now operates in more than 900 schools in 14 states and the District of Columbia, has won numerous national, state and local awards for its success in linking struggling students with trained volunteers who are eager to pass on a love of reading.