

## OG SUMMER PROGRAM REFLECTIONS

(submitted by Mary Baumgarten)

This was the pilot year of Literacy Nassau's OG Summer Intensive Program, and I am so happy to have been a part of it! Throughout the course of the 4-weeks, students made new friends as they strengthened and developed their reading and spelling skills in a supportive, relaxed, and positive environment. During our time together, the students in my group engaged in various OG lessons and learning activities. We began by learning the story of the Alphabet King and his special letters (the vowels). We practiced identification and recognition of letters and their corresponding sounds. In doing so, students participated in fun alphabet reinforcement activities such as alphabet puzzles, alphabet matching, writing the alphabet in sidewalk chalk, and painting vowels.

Next, students were introduced to common welds such as am and an. When doing so, we were so lucky to have a visit from Literacy Nassau's pet hamster. Students then learned about common digraphs (sh, ch, th, wh) with the story of the H Brothers. As students strengthened their knowledge of the alphabet, letters, sounds, welds, and digraphs, we were able to focus on reading and spelling closed syllable words. We practiced closed syllable words, not only in our OG lessons, but also through arts & crafts and gross motor activities/sports. Some of our favorite ways to practice included making word jellyfish, writing in salt, reading with dot paint, creating word lanterns, flying paper airplanes, participating in a word scavenger hunt, making word accordions, and having a water balloon toss to practice spelling.

Students were also introduced to some common rule breaker words aka sight words. We practiced these phonetically irregular words with the trace, copy, cover procedure as well as with different engaging activities. Some of which included sight word soccer, water color painting, and spelling pong. The students really blossomed. It was truly a pleasure to help them learn and grow. I am so proud of each and every one of them for the effort, determination, and growth that they showed. I am so happy to be a part of their reading journey, and I wish them all the best! Here's what our students had to say about their time with us.



On the **LEFT** is Kate and her group

Mary is on the **RIGHT** with her students



- "I liked the art. I liked the jellyfish art."- **Hudson**      "My favorite part was the tie dye."- **Juliet**
- "The teachers care about the children. My other favorite things about coming here were my friends, the hamster named Magic E, art, games, and snack."- **Lucy**
- "My favorite part was meeting new friends. My second favorite thing was free time because I got to play with my friends. I also liked spelling words with water balloons."- **Aiden**
- "I liked seeing Magic E, the hamster. She is very cute."- **John**
- "My favorite part wearing my dinosaur riding costume on costume day."- **Eddie**
- "My favorite part was learning new things."- **MacKenzie**
- I learned about the H Brother letters."- **Tristan**      "I learned to read."- **Aaliyah**
- "I learned about rule breaker words."- **Lucas**      "I learned how to read."- **Julianna**
- "I learned about the Alphabet King and his letters."- **Giuliana**
- "I learned about open and closed syllables."- **James**

## SUMMER INTENSIVE CRAFT CORNER



## MY OG SUMMER

(submitted by Jessica D'Aprile)

The first day jitters aren't exclusive to students, it happens to staff too. The first day of our OG Summer Program, I walked in with sweaty palms, not entirely sure what to expect. What I got was more than I could have bargained for. Shared smiles, uncontrollable laughter, a group of highly intelligent children eager to learn, and a lot of Pokemon cards! Each day was one filled with a ton of creative and fun ways to learn. As the students' confidence grew in their reading, it reflected in their engagement in activities. Shy students started to interact more and create friendships, and they weren't afraid to be vocal about all that they've learned. Seeing students work together to figure out the power of "magic e", or hash their conflicts out over a game of Literacy UNO, were just some of the highlights of my experience working in the summer program. I look forward to being able to see some of the students for our donation based tutoring starting in the fall!

## REFLECTIONS OF A ROOKIE

(submitted by Izabella Katz)

The Orton-Gillingham summer program was above and beyond my expectations. Being new to Literacy Nassau I didn't know what to expect. I also didn't understand the level of gratification you receive as the kids become more comfortable with their peers and with their reading. The kids began the program introverted and slowly became more extroverted as they continued to attend the program. Even those who didn't want to participate in some activities in the beginning began to join in as they gained more confidence in them themselves. Watching them interact and learn through games, arts & crafts and activities they continued to enhance their skills. One of the most incredible parts was watching the kids learn new skills from each other by tapping on their arms or using their fingers to sound out unfamiliar words. I have learned an enormous amount from my experience this summer. I look forward to being part of the OG tutor training program.

### Indoor time:

Students completing "Alphabet Puzzles" to practice letters, sounds, and alphabetical order.



### Outdoor time:

We enjoyed flying our airplanes to find and read words and going on a scavenger hunt to find all the hidden words

### Art time:

We wrote words with glue and sand. We made lanterns with a group of words from one syllable type. We painted letters with hand prints.

