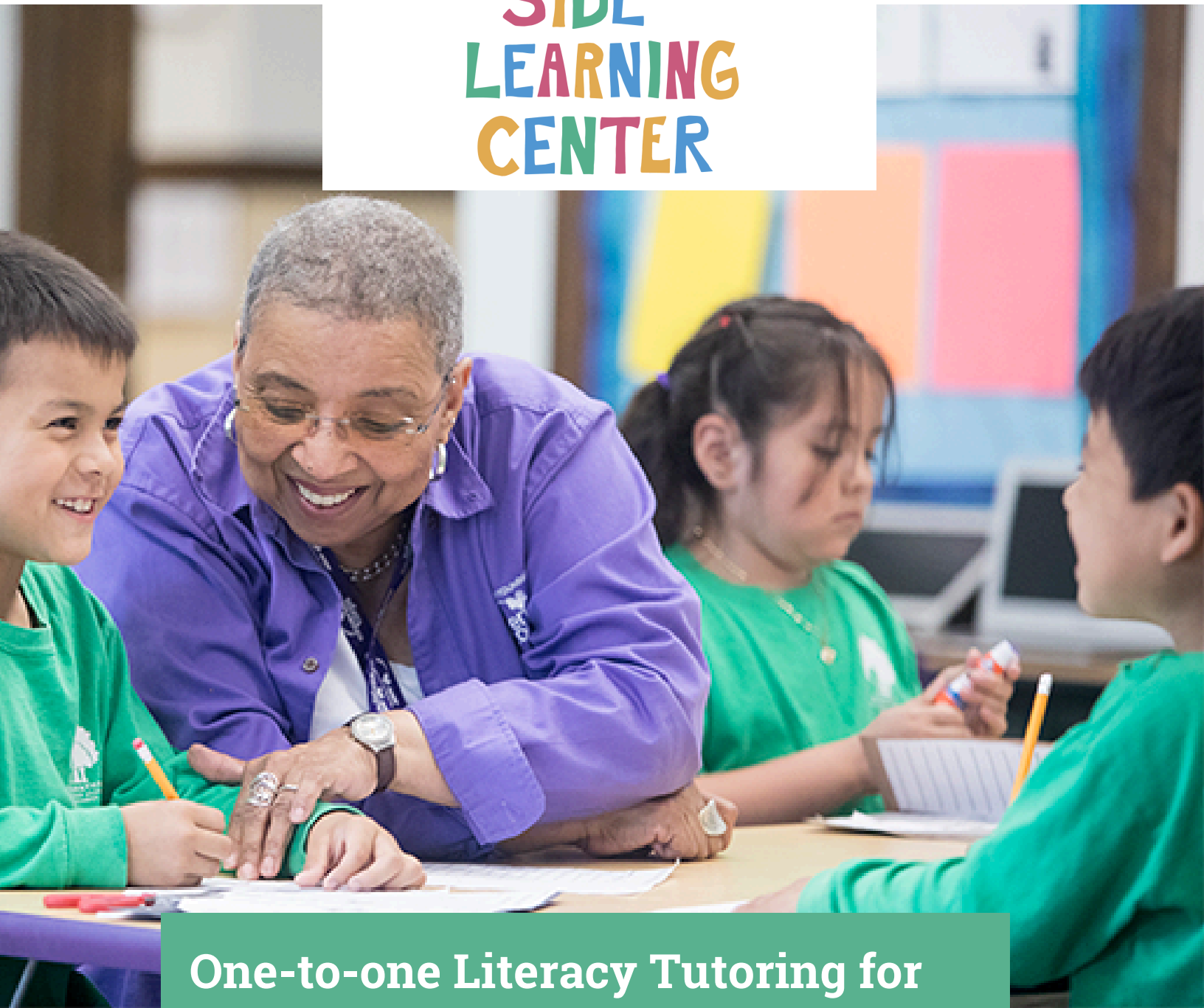


# EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER



## One-to-one Literacy Tutoring for Kindergarten - Third Grade Readers

A guide to East Side Learning Center's relationship-centered, evidence-based literacy tutoring: one-to-one encouraging and consistent support from highly trained community volunteers.

## Our Commitment

East Side Learning Center (ESLC), established in 2001, is an independent non-profit that strives to “unlock each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.” In 2019, ESLC adopted AARP Foundation Experience Corps Twin Cities, an intergenerational literacy tutoring program where volunteers age 50+ guide the next generation of readers. We commit to relationship-centered learning, research-based literacy practices for one-to-one tutoring, and family empowerment.

### East Side Learning Center Programs and Purpose

#### ***Prevention Program***

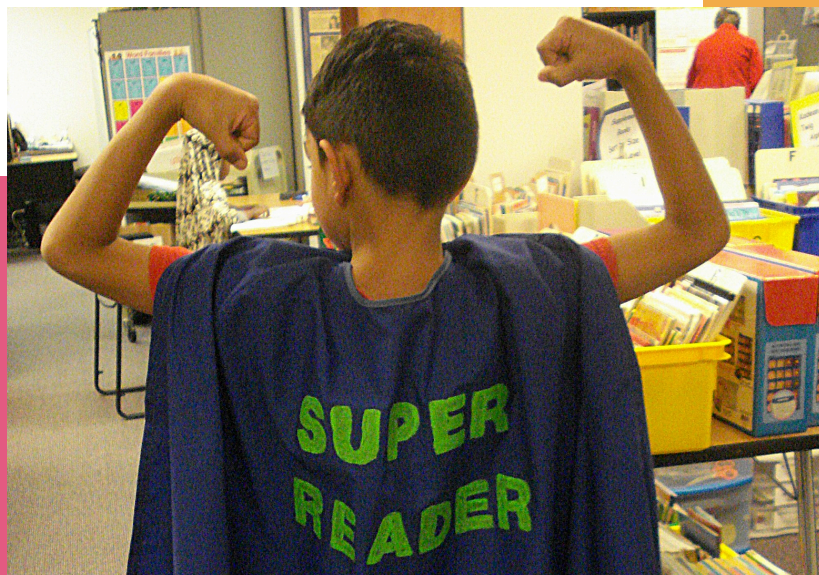
Services are available for kindergarten children. The goal is to accelerate reading and social-emotional growth, so children meet 1st grade readiness benchmarks. The literacy sessions incorporate concepts of print, letter names, letter sounds, phonics activities, early high-frequency words, and oral language development.

#### ***Intervention Program***

Services are available for 1st through 3rd grade children. The goal is to accelerate reading and social-emotional growth, so children meet school identified reading goals. The literacy sessions incorporate high-frequency word fluency, phonics activities, oral reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

#### ***Family Empowerment***

A significant indicator of a child's academic success is a caring adult encouraging them along their educational journey. The mission of ESLC includes engaging family members and community members as active partners in their child's education to help prepare our students for academic success. ESLC offers parent/community literacy-at-home education and resources.



## What you can expect as a partner with East Side Learning Center

East Side Learning Center (ESLC) provides one-to-one supplemental literacy support and mentoring relationships that help children thrive. ESLC offers a high-quality program, rooted in best practices in literacy tutoring and mentoring, with positive and consistent support from highly trained volunteers. We are committed to helping students become confident, fluent readers, using methodology that is informed by rigorous evaluation. The purpose of ESLC tutoring is to supplement classroom literacy work.

- One-to-one student support in literacy.
- An organized and refined approach to make serious use of volunteers in your school.
- ESLC staff oversight.
- All tutoring materials.
- Students receive books throughout the year to develop their home libraries.
- Volunteers with 20+ hours of annual training in literacy and mentoring best practices.
- Volunteers commit a specific amount of time each week dedicated to building positive, caring relationships with students. *We are proud that many of our Literacy Mentors are community elders (ages 50+) who provide 6-10 hours per week for an entire school year through AARP Foundation Experience Corps.*
- Session note and progress data from ESLC.

## How ESLC Tutoring Works

- Literacy Specialists or teachers identify students who will work with ESLC for the year.
- Students receive consistent 30-minute tutoring sessions, 4 days per week. ESLC staff work with teachers to create a tutoring schedule.
- ESLC staff regularly communicate with teachers and use school and ESLC's progress monitoring assessments to customize skill-building activities to individual students' needs.



# Site Expectations When Implementing ESLC Tutoring

## ***Input and Support***

- Identify a staff person to serve as the liaison to ESLC staff to assist with student selection, scheduling, educating teachers about ESLC tutoring, and other implementation needs.
- Literacy specialists and/or teachers select students to participate.
- Ensure participating students will be available for tutoring four days a week, Monday through Thursday. Session length is 30 minutes.
- Provide the school's Kindergarten Curriculum Scope and Sequence, including:
  - The order, when, and how the letters of the alphabet are taught (upper case, lower case, sounds).
  - The order and when high-frequency words are introduced.
  - When decoding is introduced and taught.
- Welcome ESLC Literacy Mentors to your school by providing an orientation.
- Continued support from staff to replace students who have moved or give direction when additional learning or behavioral support is needed.

## ***Student Data***

- Provide student nationally normed assessment data to ESLC three times per year: fall, winter, spring.
- Provide demographic data and family contact information.

## ***Space and Schedule***

- Space for Literacy Mentors to meet with students (tables/desks/chairs) and for materials to be stored.
- Calendar of school activities and testing schedule.

## ***Cost Share***

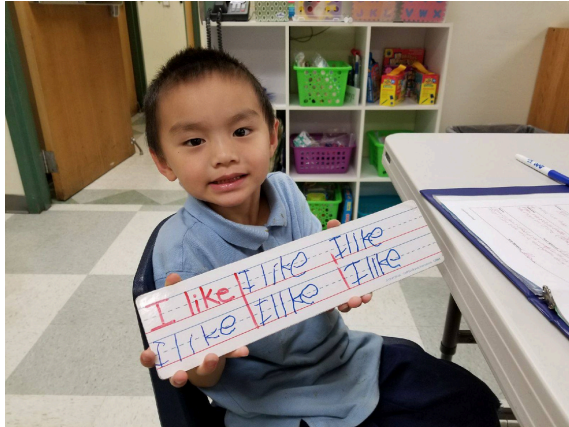
The support of sponsors, grantors and partnerships allows ESLC to cover most of the cost per student. ESLC negotiates a cost share financial investment with schools. Negotiated fees offset expenses including program oversight, site coordination and data management.





## What Teachers Say

"Our students crave relationships and time to read and explore literacy in different ways. These mentors provide fun, engagement, games, care, and patience. The year is brighter for all with these wonderful volunteers because of the time and care they put into our schools every day."



## What Literacy Mentors Say

"It's a great feeling to develop a relationship with the children you're working with. It's also very rewarding to see their progress. I feel better myself when I volunteer."

## What Parents Say

"My children enjoy reading with the tutors and they look forward to reading now, which is amazing!"

## What Our Data Says

### 3rd Grade

- 68% met benchmark for fluency and/or accuracy
- 57% made accelerated growth in fluency and/or accuracy\*

### 2nd Grade

- 61% met benchmark for fluency and/or accuracy
- 48% made accelerated growth in fluency and/or accuracy\*

### 1st Grade

- 14% met benchmark for fluency and/or accuracy
- 18% made accelerated growth in fluency and/or accuracy\*
- These are students who had no in person preschool or Kindergarten due to the Covid Epidemic

### Kindergarten

- 100% of students met Benchmark and made growth for letter names
- 86% of students met Benchmark and 93% of students made growth for letter sounds
- 21% of students met Benchmark and 93% of students made growth for high-frequency word identification

### SEL

- 76% of students demonstrated social emotional growth based on the Panorama Assessment of Social-Emotional Growth.

\*Based on expected fluency growth, % expected fluency growth, expected accuracy growth, and/or % expected accuracy growth.

## FAQ

### What happens during tutoring sessions?

The tutoring session structure defines the content and sequence of a 30-minute tutoring session, adaptable to more or less time as needed. The session structure includes:

- An opening activity to build the Literacy Mentor/student relationship;
- Skill building activities that include focused practice of a literacy skill and opportunities to build SEL competencies through review and reflection;
- “Quality talk” and a read-aloud to model fluent reading and foster a love of reading; and
- A closing activity to affirm the student’s success.

### What are the benefits to my students?

- High-quality tutoring is an effective tool for providing differentiated literacy instruction.
- Given the class sizes and time constraints in today’s classrooms, ESLC tutoring provides support to students to improve their letter name, letter sound, high-frequency word and oral reading fluency through repetition and practice with connected text. The support provided by our Literacy Mentors helps students grow in these important skills.
- ESLC Literacy Mentors excel at building mentoring relationships to help students grow their confidence and pride in reading. Students thrive as they receive one-to-one support from a caring adult.

### Do teachers have to prepare materials for the Literacy Mentors to use with students?

No. The Literacy Mentors receive training and materials to use that complement classroom curriculum.

### How does ESLC incorporate feedback from teachers?

ESLC has a library of skill-based activities that can be used to supplement and customize each student's lesson. Teachers notify your school's ESLC site coordinator with a specific skill request, and ESLC staff will identify appropriate resources and train the Literacy Mentor to incorporate the requested skill building into the sessions.



## FAQ

### What training do Literacy Mentors receive?

Literacy Mentors are required to have 20+ hours of training per year and are trained on the literacy session activities, oral language development, higher order thinking questions, vocabulary building best practices, mentoring, social emotional learning, a trauma-informed lens, implicit bias, child development, active learning techniques, and mindfulness activities.

### How do tutoring sessions align with Science of Reading research?

- Pre-fluency sessions focus on a strong foundation of letter sounds and early phonics practice, aligned to the school curriculum.
- Incorporate student interest & choice around reading materials to increase reading motivation.
- Expand vocabulary and concepts in all conversations.
- Read alouds focus on expanding world view and experiences, vocabulary and enjoyment.

### Who are ESLC partners?

ESLC partners with schools supporting kindergarten through 3rd grade students who have not yet reached grade level reading, are experiencing poverty as demonstrated by qualification for free/reduced lunch, are/or are English Language Learners. Core to ESLC's mission is shrinking the opportunity gap that exists for BIPOC Minnesotan children to reach strong educational outcomes for all.

### How does ESLC incorporate Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in its work?

ESLC is purposefully aware that educational settings have, and continue to be, places of historical trauma for many communities. We understand that we need to interrupt systemic racism in our educational setting to improve educational outcomes and educational possibility for children of color. To that end, ESLC incorporates the following into tutoring programming:

- Read aloud options that are "windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors" for students.
- A commitment to providing consistent, caring adults who make long-term volunteer commitments.
- Consistent DEI and implicit bias training for ESLC Board of Directors, staff and volunteers.
- Honor and uplift the crucial role parents, families, and community members play in academic success for children.
- An ongoing commitment to reflection, assessment, and action by the ESLC Board of Directors and staff to further Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and create the community we all deserve to live and thrive in.





# Next steps to partner with East Side Learning Center

Contact Mary Fritz, Executive Director  
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East Side Learning Center is an educational partnership with the School Sisters of  
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