

FAQs about the RAI Reading Intervention Program



Reading Assist Institute (RAI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching the foundational skills of reading to children with significant academic challenges, empowering them to achieve grade-level proficiency. We help struggling readers learn the basic mechanics of reading, and train tutors, parents and teachers in an evidence-based, multisensory, structured approach to literacy education.

Here are helpful answers to questions you may have about our reading intervention services.

Is the Reading Assist program right for my child? Through the years, RAI has helped thousands of struggling readers, establishing a regional and national reputation as a leader in literacy support to students, teachers and parents. No one program works for everyone, but for students who struggle with the basic mechanics of reading, spelling and writing, Reading Assist can help.

How are Reading Assist tutors trained? The evidence-based training that RAI provides is grounded in our over 25 years of experience working with struggling readers, and informed by the latest advances in cognitive neuroscience and reading research. RAI tutors complete a 40 hour training in the RAI Reading Intervention Program and are also required to attend continuing education classes to remain current with the RAI program. Background checks are completed on all tutors registered with RAI.

Does my child need to be tested before starting tutoring sessions? No. Our Reading Skills Evaluation is optional and is meant to help determine whether the RAI Reading Intervention Program is an instructional match to your child's learning needs. The evaluation assesses the student's phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, decoding and recoding skills, knowledge of syllable types in determining vowel sounds and advanced vowel digraphs and consonant digraphs. Our Director of Tutoring Services administers and scores the evaluation, and provides a written report that details the level of your child's foundational reading skills and whether or not our program will be helpful to your child. The testing session is 1-1/2 hours long and takes place in the RAI office located at 100 West 10th Street, Suite 910, Wilmington, DE

19801. If your child was recently evaluated elsewhere, a copy of the evaluation submitted with the enrollment form, would help us determine appropriate intervention for your child.

How many sessions should my child attend? How long are they? Our experience and our past results have shown us that most struggling readers need intensive, consistent intervention in order to make progress. That means meeting with an interventionist two or three days a week. And because there is no “usual” timeline for how quickly a student will progress, the pace of each program is adjusted to fit the child’s individual needs. RAI strongly recommends three reading intervention sessions per week. Enrollment in the RAI program requires a minimum of two sessions per week. Each session is 1-hour long. We do not schedule partial sessions as it is not best for the student.

Enrollment for reading intervention tutoring can begin at any time during the calendar year and can be cancelled at any time. There are no time contracts or minimum sessions.

Where do the tutoring sessions take place? When are they scheduled? The location of the tutoring sessions is determined by you and your child’s tutor prior to the start of the first session. They may be at your home, the tutor’s home, or another agreed upon location that is mutually convenient to all. You and your child’s tutor are working together in partnership to make sure your child has the best support possible. One way to help your child achieve success in reading is through consistent attendance at tutoring sessions. Therefore, if a situation arises in which your child will be unable to attend a tutoring session, please contact your tutor as early as possible.

How is my child’s progress monitored? RAI tutors administer a program assessment at the student’s first tutoring session. This assessment, which aligns with our curriculum, guides the tutor’s instruction. RAI tutors regularly monitor student progress using a widely respected and reliable assessment tool called DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), as well as RAI program assessments. Based on the results of ongoing assessments, instruction is adjusted to meet your child’s individual needs.

What does this cost?

The Reading Skills Evaluation and written report is \$125.00. The evaluation is optional and there is no obligation to begin tutoring if you request this service.

Should you decide to begin tutoring sessions for your child, a one-time registration fee of \$35 is charged for each student. If you discontinue sessions for a period of more than 6 months and then want to re-enroll you will be charged the \$35 registration fee again. Registration fee will

not be charged until a tutor has been selected and paired with the student. Registration fee will be included in first month's billing statement.

The fee for 1-hour tutoring sessions is \$50.00 per session. Your credit card will be charged at the end of each calendar month for the number of sessions your child attended. An email receipt will be sent to you each month you are charged.

I have more questions. Who do I call? Choosing a reading intervention program that meets your child's specific learning needs can be confusing. Please feel free to contact Jeanne DiChiara, Manager of Tutoring Programs, at 302-425-4080 ext. 101 or jeanned@readingassist.org for additional information.

How do I enroll my child in the program?

Once all of your questions have been answered, and you are ready to enroll, complete the enrollment form, print, sign, and submit by email to jeanned@readingassist.org , fax to 302-425-4085 Attn: Jeanne, or mail to Reading Assist Institute, 100 West 10th Street, Suite 910, Wilmington, DE 19801. Jeanne will contact you and arrange for a tutor for your child.