



A Multisensory Structured Language Approach

The principles of instruction and content of a multi-sensory structured language program are so essential for effective teaching, that we incorporate them into our daily schedule. Our K-12 classrooms offer 45-60 minutes of daily Orton-Gillingham instruction by professionally trained and/or certified instructors. The Orton-Gillingham approach is recognized for its effectiveness with children who have dyslexia. At Pinnacle, we believe that the principle of combining movement with speech and reading is beneficial for all of our students.

Content

- ***Phonology and Phonological Awareness***
Phonology is the study of sounds and how phonemes are distinct from other sounds in our language. Phonological awareness is the understanding of the internal linguistic structure of words.
- ***Sound-Symbol Association***
This is the knowledge of sounds and their correspondence to letters or a combination of letters. Sound-symbol association must be mastered in two directions: visual to auditory and auditory to visual. Students must be taught to blend sounds into words (decoding) and segment whole words into individual sounds (encoding).
- ***Syllable Instruction***
Instruction includes the teaching of six basic syllable types: closed, vowel-consonant-e, open, consonant-le, r-controlled, and diphthong. Syllable division rules are directly taught in relation to word structure.

- **Morphology**
Morphology is the study of how morphemes are combined from words. A morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning in the language. The curriculum includes the study of base words, roots, prefixes, and suffixes.
- **Syntax**
Syntax is a set of principles that dictate the sequence and function of words in a sentence in order to convey meaning. This includes grammar, sentence variation, and the mechanics of language.
- **Semantics**
Semantics is that aspect of language concerned with meaning. The curriculum must include instruction in the comprehension of written language from the beginning.
- Fluency building, language comprehension, and writing are also included in our comprehensive program.

Principles of Instruction

Simultaneous, Multisensory

Teaching is done using all pathways of the brain:

Visual

Auditory

Kinesthetic

Tactile



Systematic and Cumulative

The Orton-Gillingham approach requires that the organization of material follows the logical order of language, progressing from easiest to more difficult. Concepts are reviewed and build upon what has already been learned to strengthen memory.

Direct Instruction

Multisensory language instruction requires the direct, explicit teaching of all concepts with continuous student-teacher interaction.

Diagnostic Teaching

Our teachers have been clinically trained and are adept at prescriptive and individualized teaching. Student plans are based on careful and continuous assessment of their unique needs.

Synthetic and Analytic

Synthetic instruction teaches how the parts of language work together as a whole. Analytic instruction teaches how the whole is broken down into its component parts.

This information has been adapted from the International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

See, hear, feel the magic of Orton-Gillingham!

