**How to Hire a Tutor**

If your child is struggling with reading, and your child doesn't have an IEP (or the Special Education teacher is not certified in an Orton-Gillingham-based method), then hire a private tutor.

Having spent years as a professional tutor of dyslexic children, Susan Barton highly recommends holding a telephone interview with a potential tutor and asking the following questions. No professional tutor will be offended by them, and you'll learn quite a bit. The following checklist, “Questions to Ask a Potential Tutor,” is from the book *Straight Talk About Reading*.

Please describe your background and training.

1. Do you use an Orton-Gillingham system? (If they don't know what you mean, run for the hills.) Which one? Are you certified in that system? How long have you used it?
2. How long have you been tutoring children in reading?
3. Approximately how many students have you tutored over the past 5 years?
4. Do you spend any of the session helping the student with homework, or do you concentrate only on remediation?
5. Will I be expected to work with my child at home between sessions?
6. How do you interact with the student's school?
7. How often will you provide feedback to me on my child's progress, and in what format?
8. What is your hourly fee? What happens if my child has to miss a session?
9. How many sessions per weeks do you recommend? (Twice a week is **minimum** for a dyslexic child.)
10. Would you give me the name and telephone number of several parents of students you are currently tutoring?
11. Could we schedule a free consultation so that I can meet you and see your office?

If you like what you hear, ask for a free face-to-face visit so that you can see the tutoring environment. Take your child with you and see how he/she interacts with the potential tutor. Make **sure** the tutor has **lots** of experience working with dyslexic children.

**Successful Tutoring Needs These 5 Things**

Susan Barton advises parents to seek professional one-on-one tutoring for their child outside of the public school system. That's because to bring the reading, writing, and spelling skills of a child with dyslexia up to grade level, you need these 5 things:

1. The right system (an Orton-Gillingham system)
2. The right tutor or teacher (someone who is well trained and certified in that Orton-Gillingham system)
3. The right intensity level (at least twice a week, for an hour each time)
4. The right setting (one-on-one tutoring is best; one-on-three is maximum)
5. For the right duration (until the student's skills are at or beyond grade level)

Most public schools cannot provide those five elements. So parents should either send their child to a private school for dyslexic children, hire a private tutor who is certified in an Orton-Gillingham system, or get trained in an Orton-Gillingham system and tutor their own child.