

A.P.'S STORY

MOM EXPLAINS WHY THE RITES SUMMER PROGRAM HAS BEEN SO IMPORTANT IN HER SON'S ACADEMIC JOURNEY



“First, I have to say how fortunate we are to have RITES summer learning available right here in Rhode Island! Having spoken to many parents of children with learning differences, resources and support can be hard to find.

My son struggled with the early reading fundamentals, like letter sounds, for years. He made no progress in kindergarten. So we switched from a private school to the public school where he would receive extra help. And he worked hard! We saw slow progress in first grade. At the end of the year, he was able to read simple sentences and short books. Over the summer, we read together routinely, had a weekly summer check in with a reading specialist, and several 1:1 tutoring sessions. Yet when he returned to school, his reading assessment showed he had slid back to a basic level of picture reading! As a mom, I was devastated for him - He had worked so hard!

In second grade, more hard work and extra help brought his reading to a first grade level. And, we were determined not to lose ground again! I knew that he would need more than his public school extended learning program could offer. We applied to the RITES summer Code Breakers reading program, with the hope that this could help. Three hours a day, five days a week, the kids are immersed in How To Read. They move, they write, they decode and they read in small groups with experienced teachers. And at the start of 3rd grade, my son had retained his reading level – huge win!!! – but even more importantly, the reading levels started to come more easily. He began making consistent progress. He began to say, “I can read, mom!” He independently read signs and cereal boxes - sometimes haltingly, sometimes incorrectly, but he was doing it!

Determined to keep the momentum, we enrolled a second year. This session included a talk from an author - When I picked up my son that day, he could not contain his excitement. We ran over to the bookstore to buy the author’s book and started reading it that night. Again, the reading specialist reported no summer slide! I am proud to say that he is now reading within his grade level – he went from being a full two years behind to being within grade level.

Here’s what I think makes the summer program special and invaluable:

- Immersion – having that singular focus on reading
- Small groups – working with kids the same age and who have the same or similar struggles
- Amazing teachers who get “it” and have the tools to help our kids learn to read

We know the hard work is not done. Now reading will be throughout all subjects. Vocabulary becomes more diverse and complex across the curriculum. But we have hope and a great connection to the RITES team of experts!”

– J.P., RITES SUMMER PARENT

Want to get started on your child’s path to lifelong success? [Click here to use the RITES Summer Selector tool](#) and find the right summer program today!