

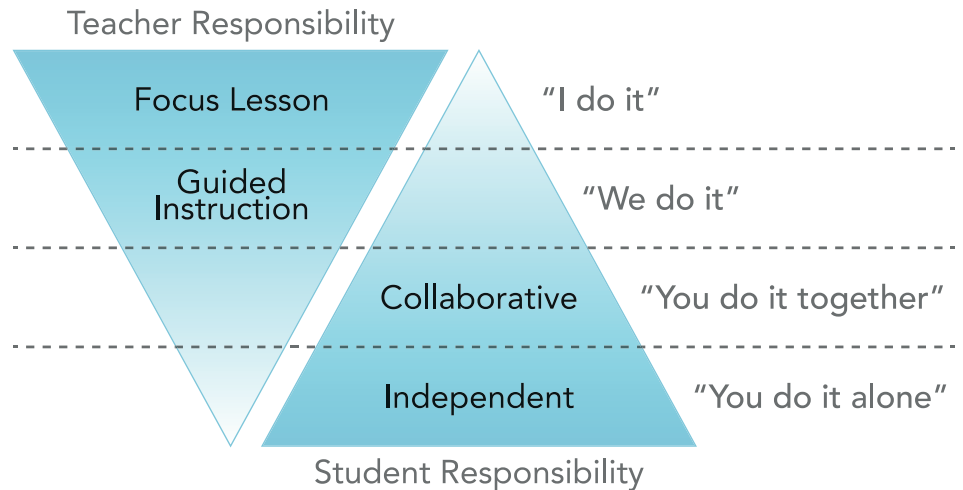


# Therapeutic Tutoring SPELLING & WRITING

To reach each student's highest potential, Pinnacle Education tutors find any gaps in past learning, adapt and change as needed, and teach new skills using Orton-Gillingham based methods.

Our tutors custom design an educational program for each student. They deliver explicit, multi-sensory, structured literacy instruction matching a student's neurological profile. Students learn at a pace and strength just right for them, considering not only their unique challenges, but also their many strengths.

## Gradual Release Model of Teaching utilized in Orton-Gillingham Methods



### About Our Programs

We begin by gathering information from a variety of sources: parent report, the student's school, privately procured evaluations, specialists reports, neuropsychological evaluations, and our own skills assessments.

Our own assessments present the student with an opportunity to partner with the tutor so that both are the teacher. While the tutor is instructing the child in academics, the student is teaching the tutor about how their brain best learns. Unlike traditional school tests, our assessments are not just about getting correct answers or a certain grade on a report card. We like mistakes! They provide invaluable information. Often this understanding relieves a student's anxiety and builds a trusting partnership.

### The Program Plan

After this, families are presented with their program plan: a living document. While we encourage and provide specific feedback to students, they are rarely aware that we have specific goals and recommendations. Unless the student is older and prepared to participate in the program plan process, this process is for the adults.

While our primary focus is to help students reach their academic goals, we ultimately want students to leave us knowing how they learn and how to ask for what they need in a given situation. Upon graduation students have met learning goals AND gained self-advocacy skills. Our greatest joy is helping students "graduate" from their programs.

### The Lessons

Rather than teaching memorization of facts, our methods teach a structured systematic process. This enables struggling students to apply information to multiple situations. Our practitioners are exceptionally knowledgeable, structuring each lesson to a student's predicted needs, with the adaptability to adjust in the moment.

### SPELLING & WRITING: Word Spelling

Spelling and writing are the most challenging skills to remediate, yet they are the most entertaining! These tasks often produce great anxiety in our students, so we input a good amount of creativity and amusement. In addition, we stress that perfect spelling is rarely necessary, though learning a process to spell is invaluable! Rather than perfect spelling, a student's goal is to increase spelling accuracy; good enough spelling that spell check works, significantly reducing editing time.

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# STRANDS WOVEN INTO SKILLED WRITING

## Critical Thinking

- Generating ideas, gathering information
- Writing process: organizing, drafting, writing and revising

## Syntax

- Grammar and syntactic awareness
- Sentence elaboration
- Punctuation

## Text Structure

- Narrative, informational, opinion structures
- Paragraph structure
- Patterns of organization (description, sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution)
- Linking and transition words/phrases

## Writing Craft

- Word choice
- Awareness of task, audience purpose
- Literary devices

## Transcription

- Spelling
- Handwriting, keyboarding

*CREDIT: Sedita, J. (2019) The strands that are woven into skilled writing. Rowley, MA: Keys to Literacy. Retrieved from: [KeysToLiteracy.com/free-resources/articles](https://www.keystoliteracy.com/free-resources/articles)*

## Word Spelling, continued

A structured, systematic process to spelling breaks down the task into steps which can be reproduced with any word. Once a student learns a spelling pattern, we teach them to use higher level thinking skills to determine which spelling choice applies to the current situation. This method improves both spelling and comprehension of words.

## Sentences

We then take spelling to the independent level by teaching proper sentence grammar, syntax. Using our spelling concepts we expand and combine sentences. We use sentence combining to reinforce spelling and create writing that flows. Combining two to three sentences into one sentence is like exercising the muscle of spelling, grammar and written expression. Sentence expansion not only aids proper punctuation and the ability to express thoughts in complex ways, but most importantly students become comfortable with the editing and

revising process. Changes don't mean you did something wrong, they simply mean you found an even better way to express your thoughts—you leveled up your writing!

## Paragraphs and Beyond

For more complex writing, we utilize the same structured sequential methods described by Orton-Gillingham, yet at a much higher level. Pinnacle Education tutors focus not only on the structure of paragraphs and essay, but more importantly the process—prewriting, revising and editing.

For all of our students, writing requires a significant amount of concentration, or cognitive load. Providing the student with a process to follow helps them work past their writing anxiety and reduce the concentration required to complete the task. This leaves the students with more working memory, thinking space, to choose stronger verbs and express their ideas more thoroughly.