

Mission Statement

Educational Enterprises, Inc. and The Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church are concerned about children in grades 3 through 5 who are struggling with reading, spelling and writing. The two organizations have joined together to sponsor literacy training so volunteers can help these children.

Several programs have volunteers who go into schools to read to children or provide books for children. The goal of The Reading Brigade, however, is to train volunteers in a program called *Wordstorming*. This program helps children strengthen literacy skills, even if the volunteer does not have a teaching background.

The goal of the *Wordstorming* program is to maximize the time a volunteer spends with a child.

Educational Enterprises, Inc. was formed in 1994, and its mission is to empower individuals through education.

The Gayton Kirk, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA, serves those in our congregation through quality worship experiences, educational opportunities for all ages, a well-maintained facility, and loving support. We are further called to share our gifts, talents, and resources with those in the Henrico community and beyond.

Educational Enterprises, Inc.

Karen J. Rooney, Ph.D. was a member of the national International Dyslexia Association Board, a recipient of the Rebecca Brock Richardson award, a representative on the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities, President of the Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children, and Chair of the Steering Committee of the National Adolescent Literacy Coalition.

She has published *Wordstorming*, *Reverse Diagramming*, *Independent Strategies for Efficient Study*, and *Learning Strategies: Empowering Students for Success, Grades 9-12* (Corwin Press).

The Gayton Kirk Community Center

The Kirk Community Center began in September 2013. We had several objectives in mind when we organized the center:

- To offer stimulating opportunities for members, friends and neighbors to learn, engage with others, explore God's creation, or just have fun.
- To provide these opportunities at little or no cost.
- To be good stewards of our facilities during the weekdays by filling up what would normally be empty space with education, interesting projects, conversations and fun.

We are fortunate to have volunteer instructors/facilitators who offer their time and expertise to engage participants and enrich our experiences. If you know of anyone who would like to participate in some of the classes or activities that we offer, please let them know that everyone is welcome.

We welcome children to enjoy the playground and outdoors. All ages are invited to walk the labyrinth, take a stroll through the trails and gardens, and enjoy God in nature. The Kirk's grounds are an especially welcoming space for quiet meditation.

THE READING BRIGADE

Training volunteers to help children in grades 3 through 5 who are struggling with reading, spelling and writing.



Contact us:

The Reading Brigade

The Gayton Kirk
11421 Gayton Rd
Henrico, VA 23238
804-741-5254
www.thegaytonkirk.org
or
Educational Enterprises, Inc.
8545 Patterson Avenue, Suite 101
Richmond, VA 23229
804-747-1883
edenterinc@aol.com
www.krooney.com
www.readingbrigade.org

What is Wordstorming?

Wordstorming, a user-friendly literacy program to help struggling readers and writers, will:

- * Engage oral language, known vocabulary and prior knowledge in the instruction
- * Develop decoding skills
- * Practice the application of learned sound-symbol associations and syllable patterns
- * Develop vocabulary
- * Improve spelling
- * Embed skills in text through writing
- * Practice writing paragraphs or stories
- * Increase reading fluency



Wordstorming is a user-friendly literacy program to help struggling readers and writers.

The lesson is scripted, and the process is the same for each lesson. Lessons are based on the recommendations of the National Reading Panel and are easy to do.

Each lesson includes using a word wheel to identify words having a specific sound and making cards on those words to be used to practice sounding out and spelling the words. Knowledge of the meanings of the words is checked, and the words are used to write a story that is then read by the child to develop reading fluency and confidence.

What training will volunteers need?

The program is scripted, and the process can be taught in a two-hour workshop with a one-hour follow-up.

How much time is required for the volunteer? After the two-hour training, each identified child would connect with the volunteer for two one-hour sessions each week. This can be done by one volunteer twice a week for an hour each time, or by two volunteers, working as a team, each doing the sessions.

What would the process look like for my organization?

Once a contract has been signed, the training can take place at the organization's location, the Gayton Kirk or Educational Enterprises.

The training will be offered at **no cost other than a materials fee** at this time (materials are currently available through a contribution by Educational Enterprises, Inc.). In the future, the materials would be available at cost.

Administrators/volunteers who are identified by the sponsoring organization would attend the two-hour training session and follow-up session.

The program uses a "Trainer of Trainers" model, and the sponsoring organization would be fully responsible for the implementation of *Wordstorming* so each organization can customize the program to its needs. Educational Enterprises, Inc. and the Gayton Kirk will have no responsibility or liability other than providing the training.

By about 4th grade, the focus switches from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."