

# Texas Reading Institute/Family Literacy Network Newsletter

## “Improving Literacy One Child, One Family at a Time”

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April 2010  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## TRI Program Goes into Orbit!

NASA astronaut Christopher Cassidy took one of our Student Readers along on his first trip to space with the Endeavour STS-127 mission to the International Space Station last July. He inscribed the book and sent us this autographed NASA space photograph:

**“Texas Reading Institute — Thank you for your ‘out of this world’ reading program. Our family is forever grateful.”**



## Share Your Stories: A Parent testimonial

“[John] came to the Reading Institute as a **4th grader reading on an early 1st grade level**....Of course, we didn’t see miracles. But what we did see was progress, slow and measured. No magic ‘light bulb moment,’ but instead, a glimmer of understanding that soon blossomed into a steady flame of knowledge, and eventually grew into a solid base of proficiency. The obstacles that had prevented him from being a successful reader were identified and overcome, one by one, not with tricks to circumvent his difficulties, but by learning core language skills and fixing the deficits. With continued work and practice, **his reading has now improved to the point where he can read his 7th grade textbooks with comprehension and confidence.** Though he is still learning to read, he is now also reading to learn, and even reading and writing for pleasure.”

**“Without a doubt, John’s time at the Texas Reading Institute stands out as one of the very best investments we’ve ever made in his future.”**

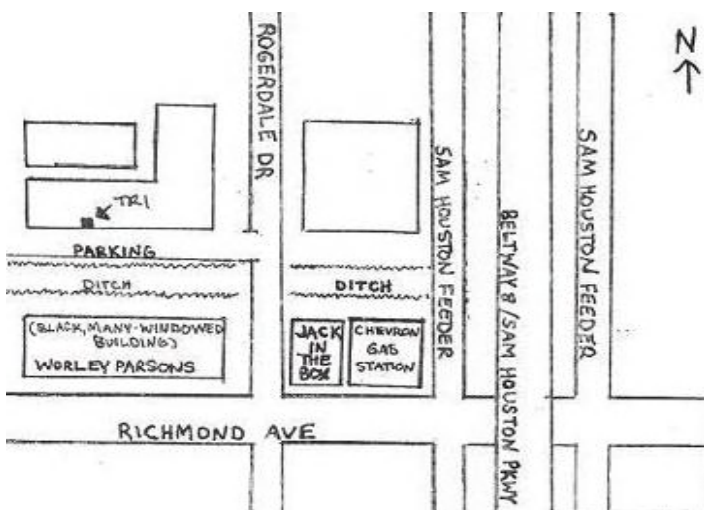
“Like most parents of a child with special needs, we’ve invested in many different programs to help our child learn and grow, many of them highly expensive, and most of them only marginally effective. Without a doubt, John’s time at the Texas Reading Institute stands out as one of the very best investments we’ve ever made in his future.” — Susan Chism, Houston, TX

**We Moved!** We are located at 3130 Rogerdale Rd. Ste.180, right off Beltway 8.

## Hellos and Goodbyes

We bid **farewell** to **Michael O’Dell**, who retired from TRI this year to focus on his legal work in special education. Mike helped kids learn to read here at TRI for more than 7 years. Mike is a lawyer by trade and began advocating for children with special needs more than twenty years ago. If you need legal advice for your child’s special education needs, Mike can be reached at 832-794-8908.

We **welcome** **Anita J. Najhawan**, research assistant at the University of Texas Health Science Center, to the TRI/FLN family. Ms. Najhawan brings nine years of experience in educational assessment to TRI and a B.A. in psychology. Her addition will allow us to reach more children by increasing available assessment times and decreasing the turn-around time between initial assessment and reading intervention.



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## Seize the Day!: Summer Opportunities for Significant Reading Progress

The summer provides a great opportunity for making significant progress in reading. National Institute of Health research has demonstrated that 60-80 hours of evidenced-based instruction brings most children into the average range. Research in reading instruction has used 1:1 instruction with different instructors (certified teachers, graduate students, and trained parents) and in a variety of formats (ranging from “intensive” instruction for 2 hours a day for 2 months to “consistent” instruction of 30 minutes a day for two semesters).

The characteristics of instruction that prove most vital for significant reading progress are evidence-based instruction, mentoring of instructors, and monitoring of progress. Evidenced-based instruction focuses on phonemic awareness, sound-symbol associations, word recognition, spelling, fluency, and comprehension strategies and uses methodologies that research has identified as effective.

Entering our 15th year of providing evidence-based instruction, we offer families flexible scheduling options at competitive prices:

**Intensive:** 2 hours a day, Monday through Friday, beginning any hour from 8 AM through 4PM for seven weeks during the summer. \$3025

**Intensive Start:** 12 hours of initial intervention. Out of state families do this in 3 days; local families over 10 to 14 days. \$45/hr

**Common Start:** 2 hours a day, one or two days per week. \$48/hr

In the medical center, the Children’s Learning Institute also offers a quality intensive summer reading program. More information is available at [www.childrenlearninginstitute.org](http://www.childrenlearninginstitute.org).

For optimal progress, students need appropriate daily support. Parents receive materials, demonstration, and mentoring in order to provide 30 minutes of daily home support. Families are encouraged to send a weekly digital recording that assists in monitoring progress and mentoring via email.

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### 3 Ways You Can Help Us to Reach Struggling Readers

**When you shop at Randalls:** Ask to have your Randall’s card linked to account #10358. Then, when you use your Randall’s card, Randall’s will donate a portion of your purchase to the FLN scholarship fund. If you have linked your card with another a school or nonprofit organization, please note that you can link with up to three non-profits.

**When you shop at Kroger:** Present the barcode below with your KrogerPlus Card to the cashier at checkout. Kroger will then donate a percentage of your eligible purchases to our scholarship fund. (The linkage is good for the remainder of that program year.)

FAMILY LITERACY NETWORK INC.



**Donate Online:** If 100 of you would join in contributing \$10, it would fund a scholarship for a parent who lacks the means, but not the heart, to help their child learn to read. Donate online at:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/philipbergman>

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### A message to former TRI parents:

Did you know that you can receive a refund for the recorder (headset, USB cable, etc.) that you used at TRI? Drop off your equipment during regular business hours and a refund check will be mailed. Please note our new location, right off Beltway 8 at Richmond Ave.: 3130 Rogerdale Rd. Ste.180 Houston, TX

### New Schedule Format

We hope our new scheduling format makes it easier for everyone to track their child’s sessions, know when a missed appointment has been rescheduled, and match their invoice to completed program hours. We’ve received a number of positive responses.

One parent stated:

“I actually find the new format extremely efficient. I must admit when Presley was there, I had a difficult time keeping the hours straight in my personal calendar. I think this will be very effective.” -Katy, TX

**We’d love to hear from you!** TRI/FLN welcomes your feedback and ideas on making the most of your child’s reading experience in our program. Email feedback to

[feedback@familyliteracy.net](mailto:feedback@familyliteracy.net).