



*"I've seen a transformation from reluctant readers who thought they 'couldn't read' to kids who now look forward to their reading times."
—Autumn, Reading Mentor*

The Shadow Project

Reading Mentors

Student Engagement

Reading Mentors supports students reading below grade level in developing skills to achieve proficiency. Students are paired with trained volunteer mentors and receive access to Learning Ally, an assistive reading technology specifically designed to help neurodivergent learners advance their reading. The result: students who can engage in grade-level work, read enthusiastically, and explore their world through reading.

Student Belonging

In Oregon, 4 out of 5 children with learning differences aren't reading proficiently, quadrupling their risk of dropping out. Our powerful combination of technology and positive adult encouragement allows struggling students to access content that matches their interests and comprehension, inspiring new levels of self-confidence and curiosity. Reading Mentors helps readers become leaders in their own educational journey.

Classroom Outcomes

- **95% of teachers** report increased student focus during reading.
- **78% of students** show greater enthusiasm for reading.

Mentored Student Success

Students spend **twice as much time reading.**

71% of students gain at least one reading grade level.

Some **students gain up to TWO years** in reading abilities.

64% demonstrate increased self-confidence as a reader.

Partnerships

The Shadow Project works to close the opportunity gap for elementary and middle school students whose learning challenges include dyslexia, ADHD, autism, sensory, and mental health concerns. We partner with 60+ schools and numerous organizations in Oregon to transform education for neurodivergent learners.

The Shadow Project has provided teachers with resources to help unleash the potential of over 17,000 K-8 students since 2003.

The Shadow Project

Reading Mentors

School Partners Provide

- **A consistent lead contact** to identify students and create schedules.
- **Space** for students and mentors to meet during the school day.
- **Staff time** for a 15-minute program implementation training.
- **Cost share** realistic for your budget.
- **De-identified** student achievement data.
- **Staff completion** of evaluation surveys.

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The program provides a glue for them to stay in their school, to be interested and to have an outlet to share good and bad experiences in a safe place.

—Blair, Reading Mentor

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The Shadow Project Provides

- **Mentoring for up to 25 students** grades 3-5, with weekly 20-minute sessions.
- **Access to 80,000-title Learning Ally audio-visual library** for all students reading below grade level, available at school and home with many titles in Spanish.
- **Training and implementation sessions** for lead teachers and building administrators.
- **School-wide educator training** to guide integration of assistive technology into your literacy curriculum for all students.
- **Program adaptability** for pull-in and push-out systems.
- **Family Outreach:** in-person presentations explaining the technology and multilingual take home materials to support student learning.
- **Family Reading Celebration** for all students who participate in “The Great Reading Games,” a national reading competition for non-traditional readers.
- **Program evaluation** to show accountability and demonstrate impact.

Shadow Project Mentors

- Provide consistent individualized coaching and mentoring.
- Motivate students to set reading goals, celebrate perseverance and progress.
- Are volunteers, trained in trauma-informed & culturally responsive education practices.

The
**Shadow
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Reading Mentors

Visit shadow-project.org
call **971-373-3457** or email
sharon@shadow-project.org
to learn more about our
three programs:

*Goal Setting,
Reading Mentors, and
SuperSensory Spaces.*



Then-fifth grade John pretended to read until he started mentoring with The Shadow Project. In 2023, John graduated from Benson High School, the first in his family to receive a diploma.