



Let's Talk

Response to Intervention (RTI)

“ My son Reggie was having problems learning to read. He could not match letters to their sounds or say many sounds correctly. He was falling behind his grade level. The teacher gave the whole class instructions on how to match sounds and letters, but Reggie was still having trouble. The teacher said that Reggie might need some extra help, called RTI. I don't know what that is! ”

—Nathaniel

What Is RTI?

RTI, or response to intervention, is used in some schools. You may also hear it called “prereferral activities.” The goal is to give extra help to children who need it. They get help in the classroom, in small groups, or by themselves so that they can do their best in school.

Tests and daily work at school will help your child's teacher know if your child is having problems learning. If your child is having problems, there are trained professionals who can help, such as:

- Teachers
- Teacher aides
- Reading specialists
- Special educators
- Speech-language pathologists, or SLPs

Extra help for your child might involve working in a small group or working alone with a staff member. Your teacher will try helping your child in different ways.

All children can get RTI if they need it. Hopefully, with a little extra help, your child will do better. If your child does not improve, the teacher might suggest testing to receive special education services. You will be a part of the team to make decisions about your child.

Fast facts

- RTI is a way to help if your child is having trouble learning in school.
- RTI can help keep your child from falling further behind in school.
- Speech-language pathologists, or SLPs, can help.



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What Does the SLP Do to Work With RTI?

The SLP may help your child if he is having trouble reading, writing, talking, or making friends.

The SLP may work with the classroom teacher to provide RTI. This can be done by:

- Watching your child in the classroom
- Testing and looking at your child's work to see how well she is learning
- Giving your child work to practice at home
- Working with the teacher to teach lessons in the classroom
- Serving on the school team to help decide if your child needs special education services

What Can I Do to Help My Child?

You are an important part of the team helping your child. Talk to school staff working with your child. Help your child practice work that is sent home. Let the teacher know if your child is having trouble at home, is unhappy, or does not want to go to school.

“The teacher put Reggie in a small group with other students having similar problems with letters and sounds. The SLP gave him extra help practicing how to make and listen for sounds and match them to their letters. She checked him often to see if he was making progress. He is now able to do the task and doesn't need any other special help.”

—Nathaniel

Response to intervention is available to all children. SLPs can help.

To learn more about RTI or to find an SLP near you who has been certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), visit www.asha.org or call 800-638-8255 or (TTY) 301-296-5650.

My SLP's name is

Appointment

Compliments of
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
and

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