

## Reading Recovery® – Investing in Literacy Learning for Grade 1 Students

275,000 Grade 1 students who struggled the most to learn to read and write have become successful literate learners in Canada since 1993, as a result of Reading Recovery instruction!

After 12-20 weeks of one-on-one individualized 30-minute lessons every school day, all Reading Recovery (RR) students make gains in reading and writing that bring them up to grade 1 level learning. The time students spend with a highly trained teacher ensures RR students:

- Develop and learn, phonics, fluency, phonemic awareness and comprehension skills that lead to academic success in all future grades.
- Read and write using materials and books that are at just the right level for learning each day.
- Build on their cultural and family experience, existing knowledge, and personal strengths to learn and grow as literate children.
- Gain self-confidence and improved mental health as they improve their ability to read and write.



The Reading Recovery intervention was designed by Marie M. Clay, a world leader in research on literacy learning, child development and the prevention of learning disorders. Reading Recovery is now implemented in countries across the globe, including Canada where it is available in both English and French.

High quality literacy instruction pays dividends quickly. Most students who receive the intensive Reading Recovery intervention in Grade 1 will not require expensive special education supports in future grades. The costs savings are clear. The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy estimates cost savings for the system range from \$10 to \$34 for every dollar spent on early intervention.

	<b>Reading Recovery – one-on-one Intervention – Grade 1</b>	<b>Small Group Literacy Intervention – Grade 1 or 2</b>	<b>Special Education/Resource Support – Grade 1-8</b>
<b>Length of Intervention</b>	1/3 – 1/2 school year (12-20 weeks)	1 whole school year	8+ years
<b>Time Spent in Intervention</b>	6-10 school days 30-37.5 hours total	15-36 school days 100 hours total	80+ days 800-1000 hours total
<b>% achieving intended outcomes</b>	60-70%	25%	unknown
<b>Cost per student</b>	\$2800-\$3500	\$6900-\$8200 per group of 2-3 students	\$32,000-\$45,000
<b>Student outcomes</b>	Confident literate learner Eager participant in classroom activities	Some confidence in literacy skills More likely to be referred for additional supports	Decreased self confidence each year of continued special education Increased likelihood of intense struggles in high school

Source: <https://rrcanada.org/cost-of-reading-recovery/>

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Is an investment of \$2800 for one child in Grade 1 too much to prevent \$45,000 in long term special education costs?

Having a highly trained Reading Recovery teacher in a school benefits the students that teacher works directly with, and also positively impacts classroom teachers and the whole school community.



- Reading Recovery teachers share strategies and literacy instruction skills with classroom teachers to the benefit of every student in the class.
- Reading Recovery teachers create a whole school focus on literacy and keep literacy at the forefront of the school community.
- When children who are older join the school community and need some assistance learning to read and write, the Reading Recovery teacher can provide supports to the student, the family and the classroom teacher.

Because the Reading Recovery teacher receives over 300 hours of training and apprenticeship, and also participates in a national network of teachers with on-going

professional learning, there is good evidence and best practices that are quickly and easily applied to students, families, classrooms and schools. This ensures that the intervention is individually designed and delivered.

*“The World Literacy Foundation estimates that the cost of illiteracy in Canada is \$32.31 billion (in US dollars). Canadians with low literacy are more likely to be unemployed and live under the poverty line. Canadians at prose literacy Level 1 are twice as likely to rely on social assistance. Low literacy means governments collect less income tax while spending more on social services like the justice system, social assistance, and health services....to compete in the global economy, Canada must reduce its literacy skill gap”* [www.excellenceinliteracy.ca](http://www.excellenceinliteracy.ca)

For further information, please reach out to the following:

Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery: <https://rrcanada.org>

Cost vs. Cost-Effectiveness of Reading Recovery: <https://rrcanada.org/cost-of-reading-recovery/>

Measuring Effectiveness of Literacy Interventions: [https://rrcanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Measuring-Effectiveness-of-literacy-interventions\\_Resource\\_Jan2021.pdf](https://rrcanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Measuring-Effectiveness-of-literacy-interventions_Resource_Jan2021.pdf)

Reading Recovery Council of North America: <https://readingrecovery.org/reading-recovery/>

The National Education Policy Center policy statement regarding the Science of Reading approach:

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/FYI%20Ed%20Deans%20reading.pdf>

What Works Clearing House i3 evaluation of literacy interventions - [https://readingrecovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019\\_WWC\\_Comparison\\_Ratings.pdf](https://readingrecovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019_WWC_Comparison_Ratings.pdf)