



**2012-13 Educational Grant Application**  
**Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, by 4pm**

Name of Grant: **Fluency Club**

Name of person submitted by: **Kathy Grassi, Dyslexia Therapist**

Campus/Department: **Kerr Elementary** Grade Level(s): **2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>**

Total Dollar Amount Requested: **\$ 688.00**

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: **25+**

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: **Ardath Streitmatter**

**Project Summary/Purpose:** Be specific. What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should describe **what students will know and be able to do** as a result of this project. Please explain how a problem will be addressed or a situation improved because of the grant.

**Student Need: Increase reading fluency and comprehension**

**Purpose:** My initial goal for The **Fluency Club** is to help the dyslexic students on campus improve their reading fluency. My long range goal (once we have a larger collection of discs) is to be able to open The Fluency Fun Club to any student needing fluency practice. Most of the children in my class do not meet district and state standards for oral fluency gains. They also struggle with their ability to read with expression and phrasing. My students need support beyond the core curriculum. Students become fluent readers by reading. Struggling readers read so few words during their reading time that they often fall further and further behind their peers. They need a comfortable, structured, motivating opportunity to engage in reading on a daily basis. Research supports that increased fluency leads to higher comprehension.

**Specific Need: Read Naturally Stand Alone Software** Levels 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 and 3.5

**What students will know and be able to do:** Several Dyslexia Therapists who have started using the **Read Naturally Program** have implemented a **Fluency Club** on their campus. Previous grant recipient, Mrs. Barlow shared, "My students are enthusiastic and motivated to work on the program before and/or after school." Fellow Dyslexia Therapist, Mrs. Bass commented that, "The **Read Naturally Program** has made my most severe dyslexic students not afraid to read anymore." All participating campuses reported an increase in student fluency and comprehension based on TPRI data. Students have the ability to take charge of their own reading growth. Improvement in reading will increase the desire to read, which will in turn increase fluency....setting the positive cycle in motion.

**Project Description:** How will the project or program be implemented? Describe activities and tasks. Who is the target population and in what ways will they benefit?

**Implementation, Activities and Tasks:** I will use the **Read Naturally** program with all my Dyslexia Therapy groups, as well as with small groups during tutoring (before or after school). Once the materials arrive, I will place each student individually to determine appropriate level and set goals. Students will read an unfamiliar passage (cold timing) and calculate their words per minute. The goal is for each child to increase their words per minute by the end of the day's activity. The activities include read along practice, independent practice, comprehension questions, story prediction and retell. Finally, the student reads the same story again (pass timing) and will immediately see their progress. This is very exciting for the students. The students will benefit by reading high interest stories that are at an appropriately challenging level. They will develop improved comprehension skills by answering comprehension questions at the end of each story. The computer program charts their progress for fluency, sentence writing and comprehension. I will be actively engaged in the entire process. I will work with the students to establish the steps of the program before allowing them to work independently. Although students will be working independently, I will continue to monitor their success in the program. I will create Common Formative Assessments to remediate any areas of difficulty students may encounter.

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Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples.

#### **English Language Arts Reading/Fluency 2.4,**

- Students read grade level text with fluency and comprehension. Students are expected to read aloud grade-level appropriate text with fluency (rate, accuracy, expression, appropriate phrasing) and comprehension.

#### **English Language Arts Reading/Comprehension of Text/ Independent Reading 2.12**

- Students are expected to read independently for a sustained period of time and paraphrase what the reading was about, maintaining meaning.

#### **English Language Arts Reading/Beginning Reading/Strategies 2.3C**

- Students comprehend a variety of texts drawing on useful strategies as needed

What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project?

The **Read Naturally Program** uses pre- and post- tests to chart each student's growth in fluency, sentence writing, and comprehension. Individual charts will be printed and analyzed to determine student strengths and weaknesses which I will remediate. For grades k-2, student progress will also be monitored through TPRI which is administered 3 times a year by the classroom teachers.

**Students are considered at-risk in AISD if their TPRI fluency falls below the following standards:**

- First Grade End of Year: **below 40 words per minute (wpm)**
- Second Grade End of Year: **below 70 wpm**
- Third Grade Beginning of Year: **below 70 wpm**

**Students are considered at-risk if their TPRI comprehension falls below the following standards:**

- First Grade End of Year: **3/6 or less on comprehension questions or if they are reading at an instructional or frustrational level.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade End of Year: **3/ 6 or less on comprehension questions or if they are reading at an instructional or frustrational level.**
- 3rd-6th Grade End of Year **Not meeting standard on State Reading Assessment.**

What teaching methods will be used to implement this project?

The teacher is actively engaged throughout the process.

**Modeling:** students read along while listening to a high interest story.

**Assessing:** teacher listens to the "cold timings" and "pass timings".

**Progress Monitoring:** as students progress through various levels of the **Read Naturally Program**, the teacher will analyze and teach to any weakness the student shows throughout the process.

Timeline for project (Funds will be available after September 1, 2012):

I will begin using the **Read Naturally Program** as soon as I receive the materials. I will continue to use the program in my classroom as well as during tutoring in the 2012-2013 school year. Each year as I obtain additional levels of CDs, I will invite more students to join **The Fluency Club**. Because this is not a subscription type of program, there is no expiration date. I will be able to add CDs, and continue this program year after year.

Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems:

The **Read Naturally Program** compliments the Take Flight Program that I currently use in my Dyslexia Therapy class as well as helping any student to improve their fluency. The **Read Naturally Program** will also be a great asset during intervention blocks to help other targeted students improve their fluency and comprehension.

Include any additional comments or information (attach additional pages if necessary): AISD Technology Department is currently evaluating this software.

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**Grant Budget:** specific product numbers, vendor addresses, etc **are not required** on this budget page. The name of the product or the type of training or estimated cost of transportation is sufficient.  
**\*Please round numbers to the nearest dollar amount.**

Instructional Supplies	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Technology	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
5 CDs	Read Naturally	125.00+ shipping	\$688.00
Staff Dev / Training	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Transportation	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Other Expenses	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>			<b>\$688.00</b>

Are there any additional funds available for this grant? Campus or district funds? PTA funds? If you have or will be seeking funds from any other sources to help with this project, please explain. **I am also applying for a Kerr Elementary PTA Grant, in which I am asking for additional levels of Read Naturally discs.**