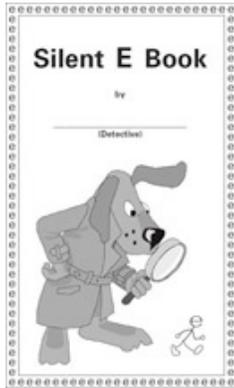


## TEACHING TIP:

### The Five Jobs of Silent E



Most reading and spelling programs teach that Silent E makes the vowel before it long, as in the word *name*. Sometimes called *magic e* or *marker e*, students learn how Silent E changes the vowel sound in words such as *cap/cape*, *Sam/same*, and *at/ate*.

But did you know that Silent E performs other functions in English words as well? Here is a summary of the five jobs of Silent E:

**Job #1:** Silent E makes the vowel before it long, as in *note*.

**Job #2:** Silent E can make *c* and *g* soft, as in *race* and *page*.

**Job #3:** Silent E keeps *u* and *v* from being the last letter in a word, as in *clue* and *give*.

**Job #4:** Silent E adds a vowel to words with the consonant+le syllable pattern, as in *handle*.

**Job #5:** Handyman E takes care of the jobs the other *e*'s don't cover.

- Handyman E keeps a singular word from ending in *s*, as in *goose*.
- Handyman E is often found in words where the *e* used to be pronounced, as in *come*.
- Handyman E is added to distinguish between two words, as in *or* and *ore*.

Most reading and spelling programs only discuss the first job and skip the rest—but it's important for students to know all of the jobs of Silent E. Learning the roles that Silent E plays enables students to decode and encode new words much more easily.

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Literacy Task Force Board Member, Marie Rippel is the author of the *All About Spelling* and *All About Reading* programs. For more information on teaching about Silent E, go to [www.all-about-spelling.com/silent-e](http://www.all-about-spelling.com/silent-e)



#### SAVE THE DATE: LITERACY TRAINING WORKSHOP JUNE 14-25, 2010

The 2010 Literacy Training Workshop will be held June 14-25 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Trainees spend the first week from 8:00am to 4:00pm learning in depth, research-based instructional interventions in reading and spelling and the second week from 12:00 to 5:00pm in a tutoring practicum. Participants will have hands on experiences tutoring a child or adult who has moderate to severe reading or spelling difficulties under the supervision of instructors trained in multi-sensory structure language methodologies.



Go to [www.literacytaskforce.org](http://www.literacytaskforce.org) for more information.

## THE LITERACY TASK FORCE OF NORTHERN WISCONSIN

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Friends of Literacy,



The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is excited to bring to you our *first* newsletter to be published biannually, Spring and Fall. Our hope is to let individuals in the Northwoods and around the state, know and understand our mission of serving children and adults with reading difficulties.

Did you know that one in every 5 individuals has difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing? Through speaking engagements in local libraries, Kiwanis, Rotary and other volunteer organizations, the task force works to raise public awareness about the impact of reading difficulties. Since 2004, our goal has been to train area tutors and teachers in researched-based direct, systematic, and multi-sensory instructional approaches in order to tutor individuals with moderate to severe reading and spelling needs. To date, we have trained 79 tutors through our beginning level literacy training workshop held in June in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Besides receiving training, the tutor also completes 5 practicum hours with a student in need. After the training, tutoring often continues to be available to the student. The dates for the 2010 summer Literacy Training Workshop are June 14-18 from 8 to 4 and June 21-25 from noon to 5 and will be held at the Northern Advantage Job Center in Rhinelander. In our 6 year history, we have served over 100 children and adults through tutoring and have raised over \$16,000, providing scholarships for trainees and tutoring for individuals. To continue to accomplish these tasks we rely on the generous financial support of individuals and local organizations in the communities we serve.

Why do we continue to do this work? Just the other day I bumped into a trainee from the 2009 summer training. She said that she was moving to Portage and she was going to begin tutoring there. As we parted, she said to me, "The workshop has changed my life and the life of my foster son. Why aren't they teaching this in schools? I never learned *how* to teach reading." And that is why we continue with passion.

If you would like more information or are interested in supporting the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin, I invite you to view our website [www.literacytaskforce.org](http://www.literacytaskforce.org), or contact us by mail or phone.

Respectfully,

Donna Hejtmanek  
Co-President

### Become a Member or Donor:

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin relies solely upon donations to support literacy needs in north central Wisconsin.

Your \$10 per person membership and other donations are used for workshops and presentations, informational literature, tutor training scholarships, tutoring materials and to support operating expenses for the organization.

Go to [www.literacytaskforce.org](http://www.literacytaskforce.org) for more information.



The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is a non profit organization dedicated to helping families and individuals in north central Wisconsin who struggle with reading and spelling. We are parents, educators and concerned citizens. We partner with the Wisconsin Branch of International Dyslexia Association (WIBIDA), Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Nicolet Area Technical College.

Literacy Task Force  
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PO BOX 574  
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## Calendar

**Board Meetings are held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church in Minocqua.**

**March 8, 2010**

Board Meeting

**April 12, 2010**

Board Meeting

**May 10, 2010**

Executive Team Only

**June 7, 2010**

Board Meeting

**June 14-25, 2010**

Literacy Training Workshop,  
Northern Advantage Job Center, Rhinelander

**July 12, 2010**

Board Meeting

**September 13, 2010**

Board Meeting

**October 11, 2010**

Executive Team Only

**November 8, 2010**

Annual General Open Meeting,  
Location and Time TBA



## WISCONSIN BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION (WIBIDA) NEWS:

There is a lot of activity going on this Spring at the Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. WIBIDA is sponsoring three presentations by Sally Grimes, founding director of Massachusetts' Grimes Reading Institute. She will be speaking at the Pyle Center in Madison on March 14 from 1-3pm. This is a free event open to the general public. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, Grimes will speak to the Department of Public Instruction and State Legislators. More information on these events can be found at [www.wibida.org](http://www.wibida.org) or the new [wisconsinreadingcoalition.org](http://wisconsinreadingcoalition.org) website.



The Wisconsin Reading Coalition Kickoff will be held on March 14 after the Grimes presentation. The Coalition will operate as an information clearinghouse for the many organizations and individuals in Wisconsin who are committed to bringing scientifically-based reading instruction to all students.

Members of the WIBIDA Government Affairs Committee are working to get support for two dyslexia bills, AB 583 and 584. These bills face opposition from DPI, WEAC and the State Reading Association. It will be an uphill battle so please contact your state representatives to support these bills.

--contributed by Jan Evans, WIBIDA Board of Directors

## FREE TUTORING THIS SUMMER FOR PERSONS WITH READING/SPELLING DIFFICULTIES:

This summer the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is offering free tutoring for children and adults who have reading/spelling difficulties. Persons receive five hours of free individualized tutoring during a tutor training course (June 21-25, 2010) at the Northern Advantage Job Center in Rhinelander. Continuation of free tutoring may be available upon completion of the initial instruction. For application information, contact Nona Soroosh at 715-479-4114 ([soroosh@nnex.net](mailto:soroosh@nnex.net)) or Bonnie Margitan at 715-356-6889; [margitan@newnorth.net](mailto:margitan@newnorth.net)). During the daily one hour tutoring sessions, parents have the option of attending a parent workshop to discuss their child's reading/spelling issues and learn techniques for working with their child.

## Literacy Task Forces' Goals:

1. To train area volunteer tutors and teachers to work with individuals with moderate to severe reading and spelling needs.
2. To raise funds for tuition scholarships and literacy training as well as for tutoring resources materials.
3. To raise public awareness about the impact of reading difficulties.
4. To connect parents and persons needing tutoring with resource persons.
5. To maintain an up-to-date data base of resource persons.
6. To support partial tutoring costs for parents whose child may need extensive tutoring.