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## Advice for Tutors

### Telling Struggling Readers To Sound It Out: "Come on, now...Just Sound It Out!"

Excerpt from [www.literacyconnections.com](http://www.literacyconnections.com)



Can you read the blue sign above? No matter how hard I try, I just can't figure it out.

Our students have probably been told to "just sound it out" since they were in first grade. (In fact, I said those words myself the first year that I tutored.) But if students *could* sound it out, they *would*. "Sounding it out" just doesn't work for our struggling readers, and it's our job to find strategies that *do*.

Here are some alternatives that your student might find useful:

- "When you come to a word you can't make out, try to find some smaller chunks within that word that you might know the sound of." Sometimes I might cover part of the word with my fingers, to expose the "chunk" that I know my student will recognize.
- "Let's think of what might make sense here. Let's try to get some hints from the rest of the sentence, or from the pictures." If there are too many difficult words in a sentence for the child to get a sense of the context, then that book may be too difficult for fluent, meaningful reading. Once the student figures out the word, allow him or her to finish reading, but be sure to write down the word so you'll be able to discuss it later. If the word in question had an irregular spelling that follows no pattern, you may just need to help the student find ways to memorize it. (We'll discuss these ways some time in the future.) More often, however, that word may have some components that the student should learn to work with in the future, like the sounds of certain letters or letter groups.

Keep in mind that your student is most likely doing the best that he or she can. (Imagine how humiliating illiteracy must be!) He or she needs our help, not our exhortations.

### 2011 School Closings

**Evanston/Skokie Schools: District 65**

February 18	Teacher In-Service
February 21	President's Day
March 7	Pulaski Day
April 4— 8	Spring Recess
April 22	Teacher In-Service
May 30	Memorial Day
June 9	Last Day of School

**Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov School**

February 21	ATT Conference Day
March 21	Purim
April 13-27	Pesach Recess
June 7-9	Shavuos Recess
June 10	No School
June 17	Last Day of School

**Chicago Public Schools**

February 11	Teacher In-Service
February 21	President's Day
March 7	Pulaski Day
April 1	Teacher In-Service
April 18—22	Spring Recess
May 30	Memorial Day
June 17	Last Day of School

**Solomon Schechter Day Schools**

February 18	Records Day
February 21	President's Day
March 10 - 11	Conferences
April 18 - 27	Pesach Recess
May 20	Records Day
May 30	Memorial Day
June 7	Last Day of School

## Evaluations

Please be on the lookout for evaluations of the program to be sent to you at the end of the school year. These evaluations are a crucial component of improving the Literacy Project each year.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



# Children's Book Drive

In conjunction with TOV's annual Spring Mitzvah Mania, TOV is collecting new and gently used children's books from March 13, 2011 through May 15, 2011.

Collected books will be given to the schools at which you tutor as well as to other schools and local social service agencies in need.



**Books can be dropped off at the following locations:**

**Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Cong.**

540 W. Melrose, Chicago

**Congregation Beth Shalom**

772 W. 5th, Naperville

**Bernard Weinger JCC**

300 Revere Drive, Northbrook

**Congregation Beth Judea**

5304 RFD, Long Grove

**Temple Anshe Sholom**

20820 Western Ave, Olympia Fields

**For more details, please call the TOV Hotline: (312) 357-4762**

## New Program: Tutoring with Associated Talmud Torah schools

TOV, in collaboration with the Associated Talmud Torah (ATT) Schools of Chicago, is proud to offer a new tutoring program set to launch next fall. Tutoring will take place every Sunday for 1 hour and it will cover a variety of secular subjects. Student participants will be in 4th-6th grade. Tutors are asked to make a minimum semester-long commitment. Tutoring will take place at the Bernard Horwich Jewish Community Center in Rogers Park.

For more information, please contact Marissa Comin at  
(312) 357- 4894 or [MarissaComin@juf.org](mailto:MarissaComin@juf.org)

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**Steve Miller**  
*JUF TOV Committee Chair*

**Yael Brunwasser**  
*Director, Volunteer Services*

**Marissa Comin**  
*TOV Literacy Project Coordinator  
JUF TOV Senior Associate*

**Questions or concerns? Contact TOV at 312-357-4762 or [TOV@juf.org](mailto:TOV@juf.org).**