



Frequently Asked Questions

For questions such as “what is LINKS?” and “is my child eligible for LINKS?”, Please see the pages labelled “what is LINKS” and “Who is LINKS for”

Commonly asked questions include:

Q: Are students in groups or one-on-one?

A: LINKS students are usually placed into small groups- only two to four students per instructor. Our goal is for each Instructor to be assisted by volunteers who provide one on one instruction to students throughout the sessions.

Q: How long is LINKS?

A: LINKS Runs in three terms throughout the school year (Fall, Winter, Spring), and occasionally there are Summer LINKS terms as well. Each term is 8-10 weeks long. During each term, students attend LINKS for one hour sessions twice each week.

Q: What does LINKS teach?

A: LINKS is based on the principal that having effective literacy skills is a key part of learning. Because of this, we want our students to develop well rounded literacy, and we teach four main areas of literacy: Reading Fluency, Phonological Awareness, Comprehension, and Writing. We follow the LINKS curriculum; however we also tailor lessons to be most effective for our individual students. For example: Billy is reading very fluently already, and has good phonological awareness skills, but struggles with writing. We will still help Billy maintain good reading and phonics skills, but we will focus more time and energy on helping them become a better writer. For more information on the specifics of the program, please take a look at the Sample LINKS Lesson on our website.

Q: Does LINKS have Math and French tutoring?

A: No, Unfortunately at this time, there are no Math or French LINKS sessions.

Q: What kind of results can I expect from LINKS?

A: Our data shows that 99% of our students move up at least one book level in one term. Of that 99%, 97% move up more than one book level. 95% of students that attend LINKS for 2 or more consecutive terms usually move up multiple book levels/full grade levels in their reading abilities.

Putting the Data aside, many parents and teachers note that beyond moving up a certain number of levels, the students who attend the LINKS program become more confident, independent, and eager readers. Students experience good books and a supportive learning environment that allows them to be successful and work hard to improve. Students also experience increased writing ability with neater, longer, and properly composed pieces.

Q: When/Where is LINKS?

A: Currently LINKS is held in 4 convenient locations throughout the school year in the Halifax Area:

<u>Bedford</u>	<u>Halifax</u>	<u>Dartmouth</u>	<u>Halifax North</u>
Mount Saint Vincent University	Inglis Street Elementary	Southdale North Woodside Elementary	Saint Joseph's A. McKay
Tuesdays /Thursdays	Mondays /Wednesdays	Mondays /Wednesdays	Tuesdays /Thursdays
___ 4:20pm-5:20pm	___ 3:50pm-4:50pm	___ 4:20pm-5:20pm	___ 3:30pm-4:30pm
___ 5:30pm-6:30pm	___ 5:00pm-6:00pm	___ 5:30pm-6:30pm	___ 4:40pm-5:40pm
	___ 6:10pm-7:10pm	___ 6:40pm-7:40pm	

****Please see current registration forms for exact locations and time slots available****

Q: Do I have to do anything at home for LINKS?

A: That is really up to you. We would love to see our LINKS students take the skills they learn at LINKS and apply them to reading at home, and to take their love of reading with them wherever they go. We send home a bag full of LINKS materials (books, writing scribbler, card packs, etc.) after each session and students are required to bring those materials back each session. LINKS encourages reading at home every single day for 15-20 minutes, but we also understand that with families having tight schedules, this is not always possible. You can also help your children practice at home by reading through their card packs with them or playing fun games like 'Go Fish' and 'Memory'.

Q: How will I know that LINKS is working for my child?

A: Aside from your own personal observation that your child is becoming a more independent, confident, and successful reader and writer, you will receive reports regarding your child's progress. When students first enroll in the LINKS program, they undergo a LINKS assessment to determine literacy levels and develop a lesson plan based on LINKS curriculum. The LINKS assessment will determine your child's 'just right' reading level based on the Fountas and Pinnell. The assessment will also determine areas of strength and weakness in phonological awareness, auditory processing, spelling, writing, and sight word recognition. From this we will develop their lesson plan and use these levels as a baseline. In addition to talking about your child's progress with their instructor throughout the term, at the end of the term you will receive a report with their beginning levels, ending levels and comments.

Q: What happens if there is a snow day?

A: In the event that HRSB Schools are cancelled, LINKS is cancelled as we do not have access to LINKS sites when schools are closed. If the weather becomes bad after school has started for the day, a decision will be made to hold or cancel LINKS and parents will be notified by email and social media by 2:00pm. LINKS does not provide refunds for sessions missed due to bad weather, however, if more than 4 sessions are missed in any term, we will consider adding 'makeup days' to the end of the term if possible, depending on location availability.