

# GiGi's Playhouse is Building Lifelong Readers!

## Signature 1-on-1 Literacy Tutoring Program

The ability to read opens up doors for individuals with Down syndrome in the workplace, schools and the community. **Developing reading skills leads to improvements in speech and language development, auditory perceptual skills and working memory function.** Our goal is to foster a love for reading and provide an opportunity to develop and master skills, all while building a positive relationship with our volunteer tutors. Students start in our program as young as age 3 and continue throughout adulthood. Weekly sessions last 45-60 minutes for 8-10 weeks at a time. Family members attend each tutoring session and leave with practical activities to continue the learning at home.

### The Principles of our literacy program are to:

- Teach using materials that are **meaningful and relevant** to the student to maximize interest.
- Teach beginning words using categories or themes to **build self-esteem and confidence.**
- Teach students to practice, **transfer and generalize** newly learned skills.
- Teach students to **comprehend and use information gained** from reading to apply to their real-world experiences.

**Books and tutoring resources are customized to each student's interest and abilities and are built based on the ways in which individuals with Down syndrome learn best.** We begin at a student's current ability and build from that point. Graduated levels of difficulty lead to an increase of skills and self-confidence. Literacy materials are available to take home for reinforcement and practice in between sessions.

### GiGi's Playhouse is Making an Impact!

The GiGi's Playhouse network provides **over 10,000 hours of literacy tutoring** annually to students with Down syndrome nationwide!



GiGi's Playhouse Signature Literacy Tutoring program is built upon proven teaching methods from the follow experts:

- Patricia Oelwein, *Teaching Reading to Individuals with Down Syndrome*
- Sue Buckley, Director of Science and Research, Down Syndrome Education International
- Susan Peoples, *Stars of Success: Understanding How Children With Down Syndrome Learn*
- Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb
- Research from the National Reading Panel, *Teaching Children to Read*

For More information and to connect with a location near you, go to [www.gigisplayhouse.org](http://www.gigisplayhouse.org).