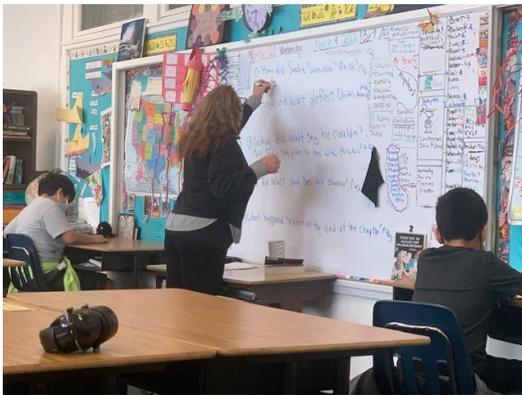


Our Mission:

To empower individuals of all abilities to take charge of their own learning and lives, making it possible for them to be competent, caring and contributing members of society; and to provide learning opportunities for families, professionals, and communities to support those efforts.

In the Spotlight! - Did you know that March is National Reading Awareness Month?



Each March, across the nation, Reading Awareness Month celebrates children's interest in reading, writing and literacy... and here at IRL, we are not the exception. In honor of this month, we met with one of our most passionate teachers when it comes to Reading, Writing and Literacy.

Ms. Jane Blough teaches at Almansor Academy in Room #3. Jane has been teaching reading, writing and literacy for the last six years. When we walked into her classroom, all nine students in her class were quiet and attentive listening to a passage from *Johnny Tremain*. Her students were actively participating, raising their hands, and waiting their turn to answer the questions about the passage that were

written on the whiteboard.

During one of their breaks, we had the chance to go outside to learn more about Jane's journey here at AA, while the students stayed with Jane's aide, Melissa. Melissa also joined the AA team six years ago, and between the two of them, they have helped to change the lives of many children through the gift of reading.

What's the age group you teach?

I have 3rd to 7th graders in my classroom which is a big range. But remember that most of them have been out of school a lot and have missed a lot of education. By the time they get here, they feel that they are stupid and defective. You have to start from where they are and build up from there. You need to understand their problems and concerns and provide them with the tools that will help them grow as individuals.



When I walked into your class, I noticed that there are nine boys and only one girl! Is that the norm here at AA?

Yes, we are 75% boys at this location. She is actually only my third girl since I started six years ago. It is very common to have more boys than girls in special education as educators look at their behaviors differently.



IRL's Empowering All Abilities 5k Run-Walk!

Saturday, April 9, 2022 | 8 AM

Arroyo Seco South Fields | 650 Stoney Drive, South Pasadena, CA 91030



Register today at www.IRLRunWalk.org



The Empowering All Abilities 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for April 9th at the Arroyo Seco Trails in South Pasadena. This is a family event for children and adults with a 5K or 1K run, food trucks, wellness fair, booths, and fun activities for children. Join us in a day of exercise, well-being, and fun by registering on our link or scan the QR code below www.irlrunwalk.org. If you are interested in sponsoring a client or student to be able to run the 5K or in having a booth to provide information or sell your product, please reach out to our Development Associate Gabriel Vazquez at gvazquez@redesignlearning.com. Please help IRL create a fun-filled annual event that supports our clients and students.



The "I Am Able" Podcast



A Mother's Perspective of CME Therapy

In this episode, Sherhona a mother of a special needs child shares how CME therapy has helped with his progression. CME Therapy is a form of intensive therapy that uses exercises that provoke the automatic postural responses from motor delayed children. Go to www.iamablepodcast.com to listen to her episode or search "I Am Able" on your podcast streaming service.

Partnerships



TAS Supported Employment is expanding to the Antelope Valley to serve the Department of Rehabilitation offices in Lancaster and Palmdale. On Feb. 3rd, our team had a meeting with the Antelope Valley DOR office and we are anticipating ten referrals a month for job placement and job coaching. One of our Job Developers has recently moved to Lancaster and is busy attending job fairs, meeting with potential businesses with the hopes of creating partnerships to employ our clients. This is an exciting time for TAS as we expand into a new area of Los Angeles County.

To help support our work throughout IRL, please consider donating through our secure donation link on our website (www.redesignlearning.org).

Connect with us!



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