



An evidence-based Canadian investment in literacy and learning  
5000 volunteers touching the lives of children and their families

## How we know Frontier College tutoring works!

Here's What the Research Says	Here's What Frontier College Does
Children's reading comprehension and fluency significantly increased as a result of literacy tutoring by adult volunteers	Recruits adult volunteers who understand and respect the best ways that children learn
Tutoring helped raise the literacy skills of children living in poverty	Tutoring reaches the neighbourhoods where literacy learning is most needed
Trained tutors helped children become successful readers	Provides training for volunteer tutors
Curriculum-based tutoring was associated with better literacy learning outcomes	Tutoring materials reflect reliable standards of practice
Informal styles of tutoring produced better readers	Tutors are flexible in responding to the individual learning styles of children
After school and summer programs led to positive outcomes of tutoring	Homework Clubs, Reading Circles, Beat the Street, and Summer Writing Camps

## How we know what the research says!

A review of the literature was conducted to answer the question: Is one-to-one volunteer tutoring an effective way of improving the reading skills of children in Grades 1-6?

A university-based research team, in partnership with Frontier College and the Ontario Ministry of Education, conducted a systematic review to find and evaluate research reports. Systematic review methods meet standards of good science by being: exhaustive, transparent, reliable, collaborative, and non-partisan. Using electronic databases and the search strategies of information science, a total of 393 articles about literacy tutoring were identified. Of those, 57 met the following criteria for inclusion in the review:

- studied the outcomes of tutoring for reading or math literacy
- tutors were adult volunteers
- children were tutored in Grades 1-6
- children's academic achievements and/or attitudes about reading were assessed
- articles were published in English in peer-reviewed journals between 1980 - 2004

The scientific quality of the 57 research studies was good. The majority of studies included direct tests of children's literacy skills, and control procedures that validated the effects of volunteering tutor. More information about the systematic review can be found at [www.research-works.ca/TutorReview.htm](http://www.research-works.ca/TutorReview.htm)

## Research Reports

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