

Family Conference 2021

OPENING - Reading Rocks Program

Dr. John McNamara

Reading Rocks is an 8-week one-on-one literacy program for children and youth 6- 12 years old who require support with their literacy skills. Through this effective instructional program, children are matched with a trained tutor who will adapt a poster board workstation and literacy program according to the child's specific needs. The program focuses on the essential literacy concepts of phonics, sight words, and fluency. Tutors will develop and implement engaging, hands-on literacy activities to address these areas and build children's motivation. Each week, children will set goals and graph their success in these areas on their poster board, contributing to self-regulated learning. One of the aims of Reading Rocks is to make reading fun!

Dr. John McNamara is an educational psychologist interested in studying young children with learning and reading disabilities. Currently his research involves working with various agencies across the province to develop and implement literacy intervention programs for vulnerable readers. Dr. McNamara also leads his LD Research Team at Brock University in a number of applied research projects aimed at better understanding reading and reading disabilities. Dr. McNamara is currently the principal investigator on a SSHRC Insight Grant funded initiative to study Reading Rocks – A literacy approach to support and motivate vulnerable readers. John, along with Hilary Scruton, is the co-founder of the Research Institute for Learning Differences.

