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I have been searching for a system like this my entire professional career. We are now using the Barton System as our primary remediation method for our special education students with reading and spelling needs.

I also highly recommend its use

Early Intervention

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What is an Early Intervention Program [Back to Top](#)

An Early Intervention Program is a way to find students at highest risk of reading failure **early enough to prevent it.**



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) state that 95 percent of poor readers can be brought up to grade

recommend its use to parents whose children need systematic one-to-one reading and spelling instruction. The Barton System training videos, with their fully scripted lesson plans, provide enough support for parents to become effective tutors.

A significant number of parent volunteers are using these professionally designed lesson plans on a one-to-one basis with at-risk students at our school, twice a week, with impressive results. The Barton System works!

*Rod Proctor,
Resource Specialist
Saratoga, CA*

”

level if they receive effective help early. The window of opportunity is during kindergarten and first grade.

The longer help is delayed, the harder it is for the child to catch up. If help is provided in fourth grade (instead of in kindergarten), it takes four times as long to improve the same skills by the same amount.

That is why the California State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction stated in their report, *Every Child A Reader*, that a balanced and comprehensive approach to reading must contain:

“a powerful early intervention program that provides individual tutoring for children at risk of reading failure.”

The Barton System has been used successfully in many Early Intervention programs at public and private schools.

To learn how to find kindergarten or first-grade children at greatest risk, and how to use parents as volunteer tutors, read on.

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Find At-Risk Students [Back to Top](#)

The best predictor of a child destined for later reading failure is a child who lacks age-appropriate phonemic awareness.

“The lack of phonemic awareness

is the core and causal factor separating normal readers from disabled readers”

*Keith Stanovich
NIH Researcher*



“

The Barton System has shown me that through the support of volunteer tutors in our community, we can help struggling readers and writers achieve what may have seemed to be impossible. This one-on-one tutoring program is an invaluable asset to the students.

I have nothing but praise for the effectiveness of the Barton System.

*Nancy Day, Teacher
Pleasanton, CA*

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More recent research has expanded that list to include 3 reliable early predictors: phonemic awareness, rapid naming, and auditory memory.

All three are essential **pre**-reading skills. Children who are below age-appropriate norms in any one of those three areas are at extremely high risk of later reading failure.

Since these are **pre**-reading skills, children can be tested as young as age five – before they’ve been exposed to formal reading instruction.

Susan Barton recommends public and private schools screen **all** kindergartners or beginning first graders using the CTOPP. CTOPP stands for Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing. It

is published by Pro-Ed Books, 800-897-3202, www.proedinc.com. Their part number for the CTOPP is 8930.

If a school gives the same test to **all** students, they do not need parental approval.

Students whose composite scores in either Phonemic Awareness, Rapid Naming or Auditory Memory are lower than the 35th percentile are at an extremely high risk of later reading failure or reading disability.

In fact, the scoring manual states that a low score in any one of these areas is a hallmark of dyslexia.

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Find Volunteer Tutors [Back to Top](#)

Once you've identified the at-highest-risk students using the CTOPP, you need to create a pool of volunteer tutors.

If your school has involved parents, recruit interested parents by making a presentation at a PTA meeting or by sending home a flyer.

Some school districts use high school students to tutor the first graders.

Others recruit volunteers from retirement and independent-living centers. Lonesome grandparents make wonderful tutors.



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You did an excellent job in the design of your program. I am a "Learning Lab" supervisor. As a first time tutor, I find the organization and thoroughness of your program so helpful to me and my 3 students.

I just wanted to say thank you for doing such an excellent work on behalf of the kids who struggle with reading and spelling.

Dotty Buller



Just be sure each volunteer tutor can pass our [Tutor Screening](#) – to ensure they hear sounds well enough to be a tutor.

Then hold a tutor training day. Run the training day using our Facilitator’s Guide while showing our Level 1 Tutor Training DVDs. (Everything you need is included in the Site License version of the Barton System.)

Then match each tutor with a student and have them start tutoring on campus, twice a week — before, during or after school.

The Ten Steps

Here are the ten steps schools follow to start an Early Intervention Program:

1. Appoint a coordinator – a staff person or a volunteer.
2. Find the high-risk students.
3. Find the tutors.
4. Obtain a site license for the Barton Reading & Spelling System.
5. Conduct a tutor training session for Level 1.
6. Start tutoring.
7. Observe each tutor once.
8. Four weeks later, conduct a tutor training session for Level 2.
9. Observe each tutor once.
10. Students progress at different rates, so let tutors borrow training DVDs for the other levels.

For detailed information on each step, [click here](#).

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I just conducted my first Barton tutor-training session. I had 12 people take the class from four schools plus Head Start and the public school nurse. It went well thanks to your fantastic training videos.

Lani Raymond
Tok, AK



Research on Early Intervention Programs [Back to Top](#)

For a summary of the research on the importance and effectiveness of early intervention programs, [click here](#).

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Grants [Back to Top](#)

If you use **parents** as volunteer tutors, your program may fall into the category of Family Literacy.

Barbara Bush Foundation

Supporting family literacy grants.
www.barbarabushfoundation.com

Other grants are available for Early Intervention Programs, including:

School Site Councils

Many public schools have obtained funding through their school site council.

NEA Foundation

Grant money can be used for innovative ideas that improve student achievement.

Grants range from \$ 1,000 to \$ 3,000.

www.nfie.org/programs/howtoapply.htm

School Grants Website

This website offers grant writing tips for teachers, as well as a list of grants available for K-12 programs.

www.schoolgrants.org

For more information on grants, and grant writers,
[click here](#).

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