



For Students in the Early Elementary Grades



# Reading Clinic

## Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic

**Children served:** Students in the early elementary grades.

**Location:** 1810 Edgehill Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee (across from the Vanderbilt Peabody Campus)

**Frequency:** 60-minute sessions, 2/week during school year, 4/week summer

**Cost:** For information, call 615-936-5123.

**Space is limited:** Students are accepted on a first come-first served basis.

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A Program of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Family Outreach Center

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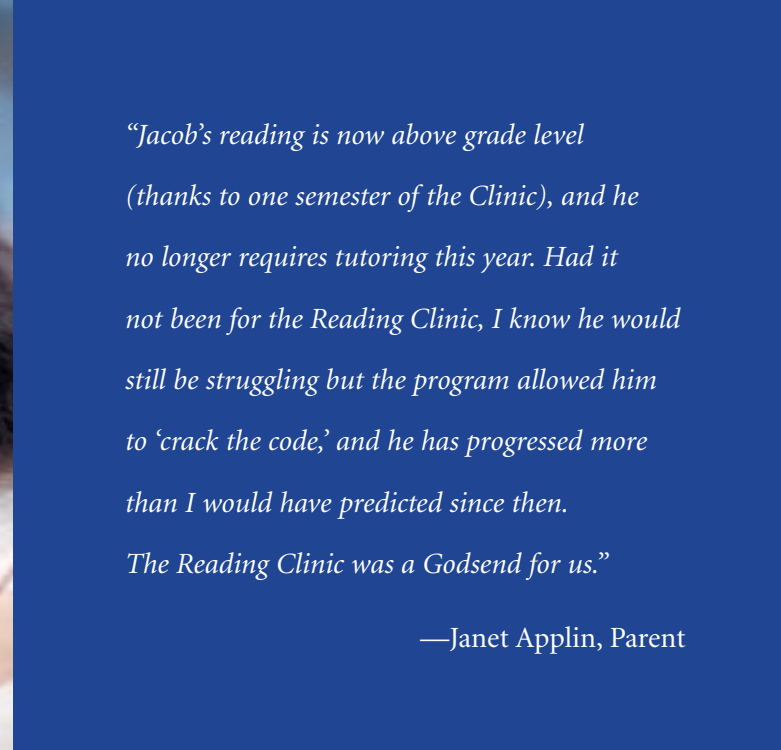
 **VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER**  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



## Purpose

One in five children has difficulty learning to read. Reading failure begins in kindergarten and is difficult to correct beyond the third grade. This argues for starting early to address reading problems, before children experience failure, feel low self-esteem, and develop negative views about reading.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic offers intensive, individualized tutoring to help young children understand how letters correspond to sounds. Additionally, the tutoring provides plenty of guided practice so that children become more skilled at recognizing and reading words and understanding them more easily in storybooks, magazines, and newspapers.



*“Jacob’s reading is now above grade level (thanks to one semester of the Clinic), and he no longer requires tutoring this year. Had it not been for the Reading Clinic, I know he would still be struggling but the program allowed him to ‘crack the code,’ and he has progressed more than I would have predicted since then.  
The Reading Clinic was a Godsend for us.”*

—Janet Applin, Parent

# Clinic Overview

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic provides intensive, one-to-one instruction for children who are experiencing reading problems. Clinic tutors use reading instructional methods that have been proven to help children acquire reading skills. Instructional methods stress the connections between letters and sounds, how sounds fit together to form words, the development of fluent reading performance, and the achievement of strong comprehension of material read.

Children's reading performance and mastery of reading skills are carefully measured during each tutoring session. This information is used to judge the student's responsiveness to the instructional program and to make changes in the student's program whenever necessary.

In the Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic, students in the Department of Special Education provide one-to-one tutoring to students. These Peabody College tutors are supervised closely by an experienced special education teacher, who has demonstrated success in helping children who have had difficulty in learning to read.

The Reading Clinic has a strong track record in improving reading performance of children who previously were struggling in school. Parents feel satisfied that the Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic has helped their children, and students enjoy the attention and the sense of satisfaction that comes from working hard to learn.

## Features

- Students are tutored for 60 minutes, 2 times per week during school year, or 4 times per week during summer.
- An initial evaluation is conducted to determine specific needs.
- Ambitious but realistic goals are established for the tutoring period.
- Reading progress is measured regularly, and instruction is adjusted often to maximize student learning.
- Parents receive results from an initial assessment, as well as a weekly written report.

## Who We Are

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic is a program of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Family Outreach Center.

**The Vanderbilt Kennedy Family Outreach Center** provides families with a single point of entry into the many services and supports of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, as well as the wealth of resources at Vanderbilt University and in the community. Its goal is to translate state-of-the-science into state-of-the-practice.

**The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center** is a national Developmental Disabilities Research Center, supported in part by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. It also is a member of the national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service in each state, supported by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

**The Brooks Family Discovery Fund** was established in 2003 through the generosity of the late Sam Brooks, his wife Linda, their children Ashley, Wendy, Dan and his wife Lisa. A portion of the Fund supports the innovative, research-based Vanderbilt Kennedy Reading Clinic and Vanderbilt Kennedy Behavior Analysis Clinic.

## On-Going Assessments of Individual Children

Reading goals are set for each child, and progress toward the goals is measured and graphed weekly.

