

# Reading is



A book is a gift you can open again and again. -- Garrison Keillor

## Nothing to Fear when the UURC is Here

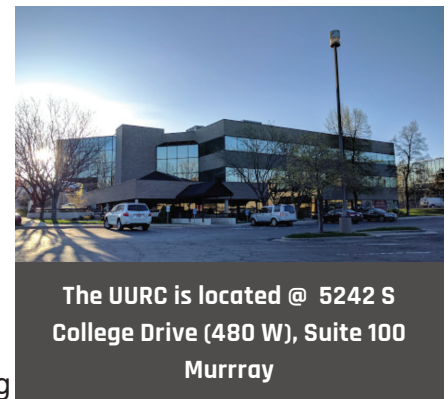
The greatest fear you had as a child is probably not your greatest fear today. But what if your greatest fear as a child had been not being able to read? That's a fear that could follow you your whole life. What is more, the inability to read carries with it the potential to stymie careers, undermine success and confidence, and rob children of the futures they want for themselves. In addition, low literacy rates among adults take a toll on society. Estimates are that more than 43 million U.S. adults cannot read or write, costing \$2.2 trillion in lost annual income and at least \$106 billion in additional healthcare costs.

To support grade-level reading skills in Utah's kids and prevent an economic drain due to low adult-literacy rates, the Utah Legislature established the University of Utah Reading Clinic (UURC) in 1999. As part of the College of Education, the UURC has served as a statewide safety net for struggling readers from kindergarten all the way through 12th grade for over 23 years. The UURC provides reading assessments and interventions; evidence-based, nationally acclaimed professional development and resources for educators; and support for parents. In 2016, the UURC added the Distance Technology Lab to meet outlying urban and rural needs. UURC distance services have grown exponentially and were crucial in the UURC's ability to continue to provide services during the pandemic.

Even prior to the pandemic, demands for reading support and intervention were high. Every year the UURC provides reading assessments and interventions to about 7,500 kids across the state and professional development to 900 educators, administrators, and paraprofessionals statewide—many of which work in high-poverty, urban, and rural areas. In addition, the UURC has provided training to 500 educators through the Wilson Reading program, an intensive course preparing educators to support students with dyslexia.

Earlier this year, Governor Cox's office increased their award to the UURC from \$968,861 to \$1,321,574. And that's funding well spent. The UURC has a high impact, with students progressing more than 1-grade level in as little as 45 sessions, including those with learning disabilities and English language learners. Students with dyslexia average a gain of nearly 1.5 years in 50 sessions through the Wilson Reading program. It's exactly this sort of impact in advancing reading ability that has parents claiming the UURC an "academic game-changer."

The UURC also provides invaluable training for University of Utah students. Students in the College of Education's elementary and special education who are candidates for licensure are trained to tutor one younger struggling reader and one older struggling reader twice a week over two semesters with oversight from an experienced coach. An additional 70-90 work-study students at the University of Utah's Bennion Center receive training from the UURC, and these work-study students will go on to tutor 200-300 children each year. In 2015, the UURC began training volunteers who tutor residents in Utah juvenile justice centers in Ogden, Farmington, West Valley, and Provo. These youth see their reading skills increase by an average of 1.65-grade levels in just 28 sessions.



The UURC is located @ 5242 S College Drive (480 W), Suite 100 Murray

### Today, the UURC serves

- 40 Utah School Districts
- 55 Charter schools,
- 5 Youth-in-custody facilities
- 6 Utah schools for the deaf and blind.

If your child is struggling with reading, you can reach the UURC at: [uurc.utah.edu](http://uurc.utah.edu) / [UURC@ed.utah.edu](mailto:UURC@ed.utah.edu) / 801.265.3951



The UURC Distance Technology Lab was crucial for regular operations and services during the pandemic.