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Dear Parents,

Do you have a bright and curious kindergartner who is having difficulty acquiring early reading skills? Does your child love to be read to and remembers details of events you have long forgotten, yet cannot remember the names and sounds of letters? Or perhaps your child knows the letters of the alphabet, but cannot put the sounds together to form words? Do you wonder how you can ease their road to reading and prevent frustration in a fun way? Here is your answer!

For the 8th year, I am offering the summer program, **"Bridging the Gap,"** for graduating kindergartners about to enter first grade. The primary objective of the program is to boost skills known to be important for reading success in first grade, including:

- * **Phonological awareness**
- * **Sight word development**
- * **Print concepts**
- * **Early reading**
- * **Decoding**
- * **Letter formation**

I bring to this work in-depth theoretical knowledge about early reading and I use creative and playful research-based multi-sensory methods of instruction. The program incorporates games from my products, **Sound Wizard** and the **Sounds Abound Program**, as well as methodologies from **Reading Revolution**™ and the music of **Fran Avni** (I'm All Ears: Sing into Reading and Rhythm and Rhyme Time). The feedback for this program has been uniformly positive. Students describe it as "fun" and learning specialists reported that their students entered first grade with "more skills to tackle the first grade curriculum." Parents have said:

"She is very creative -- she uses phonemic awareness and phonics games she's invented herself, and knows how to make it all fun. Most importantly, she instills so much confidence."

"It was a delight to watch this master teacher interact with her students."

"Ariel's games are actually well disguised instructional tools."

"She is an amazing learning specialist... terrific with fidgety kids and very fun." (Berkeley Parents' Network)

Students in the past have come from Archway, Aurora School, Beach Elementary, Beacon, Black Pine Circle, Chabot Elementary, East Bay French American School, Havens Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Joaquin Miller Elementary, Otis Elementary, Park Day School, Prospect Sierra, Redwood Day School, St. Paul's Episcopal School, Tehiyah Day School and Windrush.

Recent research suggests that early identification and intervention are the best preventive remedy to learning difficulties. Research also shows that a child who finishes first grade and is not at grade level is already at great risk for never catching up. So why wait !? Give your child an opportunity to learn through song, play and activities that engage the whole body.

Here is how to enroll your child in the **“Bridging the Gap”** summer program: During an intake phone conversation I will ask about your child’s development, strengths and weaknesses. We will then schedule a complimentary one hour screening session with you present. Next we will review my findings and discuss scheduling.

During the summer program your child will be in a group of 2-5 children five days a week for two weeks. This year, a two week session will be held Monday-Friday, August 8th-August 19th. You can choose to enroll your child in either the morning 10:00-12:00 or the 4:00 – 6:00 afternoon group. In some cases, children may benefit from one-on-one private instruction during the summer and/or during the school year. The fee for the two-week session of 20 hours is \$ 480. Payment is due by July 15th. (The fee for individual sessions is \$80 for a 50 minute session).

The program is appropriate for children identified with learning and / or language difficulties, those who have been slow to master basic skills, and others who would just benefit from a “tune-up” before first grade begins.

I look forward to meeting you and your child.

Ariel Lenchner, Ph.D.