

The Reading2Connect® Clinician Program

Addressing the Needs of Adults Living with Cognitive Changes in SLP Therapy

Much research has been conducted around the use of practical, lexical cue cards for seniors living with dementia. Scant attention, however, has been paid to nurturing and retaining older adults' ability to read on their own, for pleasure. For the sheer joy of reading.

Like individuals of any age, older adults desire meaningful engagement, opportunities to learn new things, and social relationships. Adapted books provide the platforms for these quality-of-life necessities. Accessible recreational reading positively affects the cognitive, social, and emotional health of all adults, but is especially valued by those living with reduced cognitive resources.

In our clinician training session, therapists learn to

- Easily and quickly create individualized adapted reading material.
- Use Reading2Connect® books for informal therapy assessment purposes.
- Apply adapted reading in functional and restorative therapy sessions, incorporating evidenced-based strategies, such as Spaced Retrieval, Fading Cues, and Montessori for Aging and Dementia.
- Use Reading2Connect® books in group therapy sessions following PDPM guidelines.
- Educate support partners (staff, family, volunteers) to use adapted reading for multiple therapeutic purposes such as,
 1. Responding to distress e.g., Simulated Presence Therapy
 2. Increasing occupation
 3. Decreasing social isolation
 4. Using "shared reading" during remote video visits
- Meet CMS documentation requirements that support functional, attainable, measurable, medically necessary, and resident-driven goals.

The Reading2Connect® Clinician Program fee is \$990 and includes:

- Two hours live, interactive, online training
- Ten Reading2Connect® Books printed on washable, tear-resistant paper
- A Reading Assessment Screen

