# Testimonials and Endorsements for *Ellie's Code*

It has been said that teaching reading is rocket science. Indeed, it takes a skilled professional to unlock the mysteries of the written word for many students. While most children learn to read using the standard phonetic approach to reading, there are those for whom this instructional approach does not work. *Ellie's Code* has taken an eclectic approach to teaching reading. Rooted in brain research, *Ellie's Code* is a systematic, sequential, and cumulative reading program which has had a tremendous impact on many of our struggling readers. Some of the students who have found success using *Ellie's Code* have become some of our best readers and writers! I have witnessed a transformation not only in students' reading abilities, but their attitude towards learning as well.

As a principal, I have encouraged many of our teachers to use *Ellie's Code* with their struggling readers as well as their entire class. Many of my teachers have experienced higher levels of reading fluency among their students by using this system. I recommend this program for any student who has not found success through the traditional approach to reading.
*T. Alonzo, Ed .D., Principal*

Ms. Eliana Villarroel, trained high school students in *Ellie's Code* to tutor elementary school students in reading and spelling. The high school students quickly grasped the concepts and were able to teach the strategies to struggling readers. The color-coded system in *Ellie's Code* teaches students to identify and recall different word patterns. The color-coding assists students to begin reading words and eventually phases out the need for the color-coded text. Students generalize their acquisition of reading strategies to black print in text.

Each student received two–on-one tutoring from a trained high school student for a 50 minute session four times per week over an eight-week period. Before starting *Ellie's Code*, student fluency ranged from 0-39 wpm. After eight weeks of intervention, it ranged from 9 to 109 wpm with an average fluency growth of 39 words per minute.

Our students experienced tremendous success and progress through the use of *Ellie's Code*.
*L. Gallegos, Principal*

I have witnessed one student after another undergo dramatic changes in their ability to read and spell. From the first lesson *Ellie's Code* provides students with a practical system based on color-coded predictable patterns. The students improve simultaneously their ability to decode, their fluency, and their spelling. The system targets a population of students who cannot be taught by using conventional methods based on a phonemic approach. The simple method used in *Ellie's* Code engages the brain from a different perspective. It bypasses the need to decode using sound discrimination by providing easy to remember visual spelling patterns which the brain can recognize and retain. The students thrive, literally within hours!
*S. Preysler, School Psychologist*

*Ellie's Code*, a program for struggling readers, was implemented at our school site this year. Children rapidly made significant gains in reading fluency and spelling accuracy. By the end of the school year, data showed that students made significant improvement in these areas.

Students were motivated by the "child friendly" format of the program. Many students who participated in this intervention program were being considered for Special Education assessment because of delays in reading. They demonstrated such strong reading growth because of *Ellie's Code,* that assessment is no longer being contemplated.

 I encourage others to try this dynamic and effective reading program.
**J. Fonseca, School Psychologist**

I used this system with some at-risk students. It was very successful. They went from being non-readers to reading at grade level**.**
**M. Parrino, Teacher with 24 years experience**

This program is awesome because it lets the students learn based on English language spelling patterns. It is useful and systematic. It makes the students feel confident and successful.
**E. Chelin, Educational Assistant**

The lessons in this book have been the only ones that have truly helped my English Language Learners learn and recall how to spell and use high frequency words. It is easy to use and a great resource.
**R. Reyes, Teacher with 12 years experience**

I am truly impressed with this valuable concept Ms. Villarroel has developed. I saw an amazing transformation within 30 minutes! My nine year old grandson, who attends a Special Day Class, was able to read and also take dictation, which he had not been able to accomplish before. He has become self-motivated and picks up *Ellie's Code* to read and study on his own.
**L. Rosas, Grandmother**

I have used this program for the past two years. I have seen great improvement in the reading and the writing skills of children. As compared to other reading programs which I have used in the past, this program is easier to use and gives far better and quicker results. The children enjoy the lessons and love to read the book over and over. I look forward to continue using this program as a reading intervention aid.
**M. Valenzuela, Instructional Assistant with 30 years experience**

I recommend *Ellie's Code* for all students, especially English Language Learners. This program has helped my struggling students learn to decode with ease and make great improvements in reading fluency and spelling. This program trains the brain to look for spelling patterns through color-coded high frequency words. It helps students become successful readers as it trains them to look for words within words while making learning and teaching an effective and positive experience.
**V. Banuelos, Teacher with 12 years experience**