

Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction  
And  
Ounce of Prevention Reading Center

## **Background**

**Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI)** was created in 2003 through the combined efforts of Nora Chahbazi, the owner of the Ounce of Prevention Reading Center in Flushing, MI. and Celeste Hammell, a professional educator from New Jersey, and

Both individuals had extensive experience as certified Phono-Graphix™ instructors. EBLI transpired as a result of refining and expanding on their knowledge of the many facets of the process learning to read and implementing a broader scope of research-based interventions with students and in their instruction of teachers. EBLI has been used in individual tutoring (clinical and school settings), as well as small-group and classroom-level instruction by clinicians, para-professionals, community volunteers, and certified teachers, and it has proven to be effective and efficient with struggling, average, and above average readers at all grade levels.

**Ounce of Prevention Reading Center** was founded in June, 1999. Since its inception, the staff at Ounce of Prevention has worked with 20-50 clients per week, ranging in age from pre-school to senior citizens. The center serves as a laboratory for continuously refining research-based strategies and interventions to better serve students and teachers. Word-of-mouth advertising from satisfied parents, teachers, and school districts has been the main source of advertising for the center. Because clients are seen for a short period of time – typically 10-15 hours – the center is continuously receiving new clients and celebrating the progress of those who no longer need assistance. The dedicated staff has worked with hundreds of students of all ages.

Nora Chahbazi, the owner and founder of Ounce of Prevention Reading Center, was led to this work as a result of her own child's struggle with learning to read and spell. In 1998, as a result of her 2nd grade daughter's reading difficulties, she spent 6 months researching reading. Based on what she learned through this quest, she taught her daughter to read. Though her formal education is in nursing and she spent 12 years specializing in Neonatal Intensive Care, her experience with her daughter resulted in her insatiable passion for educating herself and others about effective and efficient reading instruction. She continues to be determined to use what she's learned to help children of all ages read to their potential and assist teachers in refining their instruction. In May 2005, Nora was a finalist in the National Cable's Leaders in Learning award for innovative contributions in education.

The staff at Ounce of Prevention Reading Center is motivated by a mission to respectfully, effectively, and efficiently educate learners of all ages to reach their highest potential in reading and learning.