HELPS Tutor FAQs

Who is Helps Education Fund?
Helps Education Fund is a nonprofit organization that focuses on improving educational equity by providing research-supported programs and services that are free or low-cost and meaningfully advance student learning.

What is HELPS?
The Helping Early Literacy with Practice Strategies (HELPS) Program is one of several programs offered by Helps Education Fund. HELPS is an evidence based, research validated intervention that is proven to build students' fluency reading skills. It is a highly structured program that can be easily delivered by trained tutors. It is estimated that HELPS has been used with more than a million students throughout the United States and in more than 60 countries around the world.

What is fluency and why is it important?
Fluency is reading with speed, accuracy and proper expression. Reading fluency is one of five essential skills a student must acquire to become a successful reader and is directly related to reading comprehension. Mastering text reading fluency is a significant component of improving students' learning and opportunity. However, millions of students still need support with their reading fluency.

What training will I get?
Tutors will attend a 3.5 hour training via Zoom with certified HELPS trainers. Here you will learn how to implement HELPS correctly (that is, with fidelity). Tutors will also attend a 1:1 mock session with an Implementation Coach, where you will practice implementing HELPS, as well as have the opportunity to ask questions about the program and/or virtual tutoring. Training dates/schedules will be shared as part of the onboarding process.

What support will I get?
Follow-up support will be provided by HELPS Implementation Coaches to help answer any questions tutors may have. Coaching, practice sessions, and opportunities to observe sessions are all included in the support for HELPS tutors.

How long does a HELPS tutoring session last?
Each individual session with a student should last between 15-20 minutes. Each student is scheduled for a 30 minute time block so that the tutor has ample time for the HELPS session and being able to talk with the student.

Who will I be tutoring?
You will be paired up with students ranging from 1st through 5th grade from elementary schools within the NYC Department of Education.

What does a tutoring session look like?
Tutoring sessions will be delivered via Zoom. Here is a video of an abbreviated HELPS session that is implemented virtually.

What have past tutors said about being a HELPS tutor?
HELPS tutors build strong relationships with their students and witness reading progress quickly with their students. Here is a video of testimonials from past HELPS tutors.