

Rebecca J. Tolson
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EDUCATION

Akron University, Akron, OH, 2013-Present

Certification: PhD in Elementary Education

GPA: 4.0

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, May 2013

Degree: Graduate Certification

Certification: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Instruction and Administration

GPA: 4.0

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, June 2009

Degree: Masters of Education

Certification: Learning Therapy

GPA: 4.0

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, May 2008

Degree: Graduate Certification

Certification: Academic Language Therapy

GPA: 4.0

Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, June 1991

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Education

Certification: Elementary Grades 1-8

Concentration: Social Studies

GPA: Major 3.48 Overall 3.00

EMPLOYMENT

2013-Present-Keystone Literacy, LLC. Partner in Professional Development business. Provide graduate courses in literacy to school districts and educational service centers. Offer certification courses in dyslexia. Develops and delivers high engaging presentations for teachers, administrators, and school psychologists.

1998-Present Tolson Dyslexia Services, LLC, Owner and Certified Academic Language Therapist. North Canton, OH. Provide remediation and intervention services to individuals with dyslexia. Provide dyslexia diagnostic services. Provide dyslexia professional development services. Teach students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities using multi-sensory structured language techniques.

2014-Present Notre Dame College, Adjunct Professor. Cuyahoga County. Create and teach professional development graduate courses on various associate topics of literacy.

2012-Present Akron University, Adjunct Professor. Summit County. Created and taught professional development graduate courses on various associate topics of dyslexia.

2010-Present Ashland University, Adjunct Professor. Cuyahoga County and Stark County. Created and taught professional development graduate courses on various associate topics of dyslexia.

1991-1996 Lippman Day School, Fifth grade teacher/Social Studies Specialist. Akron, Ohio. Taught fifth grade general studies and fourth through eighth grade Social Studies, integrating thematic teaching. Developed cross-curricular units, including Language Arts, Computers, and Social Studies around topics such as Early Explorers, the Industrial Revolution, and World War II. Planned field trips to accompany all units.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate of Advanced Studies, Qualified Instructor, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. 2011-2013. Completion of a comprehensive teacher training program to qualify as an instructor for a Multisensory Structured Language Education program (MSLE). Planned, graded, and lectured while under the supervision of a professor.

Learning Therapy Graduate Certificate, Alphabetic Phonics, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

2006-Present. Specialized training to work with individuals who have dyslexia or related learning disabilities. Training in the structure of written language, multisensory teaching methods, and sequential procedures for teaching written-language skills and learning strategies.

Project Read: Report Form, Southern Methodist University, Dallas Texas

February 1-2, 2008. Training to teach students how to collect, organize and analyze information from expository text. Concepts and skills are taught directly in a dependant order using multisensory strategies.

Project Read: Reading Comprehension-Story Form, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

February 2-3, 2007. A systematic learning experience with direct teaching concepts through multi-sensory techniques. Teaches the underlying structure and format of language in the narrative form and the process of analyzing that structure.

Procedures and Measures for Assessing Students for Dyslexia, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

November 3-4, 2006. Training in developing a referral, assessment, and placement process for identifying the student with dyslexia. Analyzing formal tests to make an educational identification of dyslexia. Accommodating, modifying, and teaching strategies for the dyslexic student.

Advanced Orton-Gillingham, Cleveland Ohio

July 18-19, 2005. Advanced language using affixes, roots, and suffixes

Wilson Level II A Certification, Nashua, New Hampshire

2003-Present. Receiving training using the Wilson Language System through lectures and a practicum for instructing a small group of students.

Wilson Level II B Certification, Orland Park, Illinois

September, 2002. Received training using the Wilson Language System through lectures and a practicum using books seven through twelve.

Wilson Level I Certification, Hudson, Ohio

1998-1999. Received training using the Wilson Language System through lectures and a practicum using books one through six.

Wilson Overview, Kansas City, Kansas

September, 1998. Received training using multi-sensory structured language techniques through the use of the Wilson Reading System.

Introduction to Orton-Gillingham. International Dyslexia Association Teacher Training

June, 1998. Acquired training through the International Dyslexia Association on Structured Language: Teaching students with specific learning disabilities in Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Penmanship.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Member International Reading Association 2013-Present

Member International Dyslexia Association (IDA) 1998-Present

Member Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) 2008-Present

Board Member 2013-Present

VP Membership Co-chair 2015-Present

Nominating Committee Chair-2014-2016

Member Northeastern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (NOB/IDA) 1998-Present

Advisory Board Member 2012-Present

Board Member 1999-2012

Treasurer 2009-Present

Co-editor of NOB/IDA Newsletter 2005-2009

Organize, proofread, and author articles for local newsletter.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

October 2011-2013. Ohio Board of Regents Dyslexia Task Force Member

The task force used the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) *Knowledge and Practice Standards (KPS) for Teachers of Reading*, 2010 to develop guidelines for pre-service teacher education programs in Ohio. New pre-service guidelines are based on the specific knowledge and skills needed to identify, assess, provide appropriate instruction for and monitor the progress of individuals with dyslexia as designated in the IDA standards. Standards were approved by the chancellor in June of 2013.

June 1, 2011. Ohio House of Representatives Educational Committee

Wrote and delivered professional testimony in support of HB 157 to the Ohio House of Representatives Education Committee. Bill passed through committee with full support.

June, 2011. Ohio House Bill 157

Co-authored HB 157 which defines dyslexia and provides criteria for a dyslexia specialist and recommends the training of teachers on identification, remediation and intervention for students with dyslexia. Bill passed with full support through the Ohio House of Representatives and is moving to the Ohio Senate in the fall of 2011.

May, 2011. Ohio House Bill 96

Co-authored HB 96 which requires the Superintendent of Public instruction to establish a pilot project to test, evaluate and share with the state general assembly the results of, and the delivery of early screening and intervention services for children with dyslexia. Bill passed with majority vote through the Ohio House of Representatives and is moving to the Ohio Senate in the fall of 2011.

October, 2009-present. State Dyslexia Rally

Assist in the planning and implementation of an annual Dyslexia Rally at the Ohio state capital building.

2008-present. Executive Legislative Committee Member with NOB/IDA

Work with committee members toward the passage of Ohio dyslexia laws. Responsibilities include teleconferences, drafting bills, meeting with state representatives and senators, attending education committee meetings at the state capitol.

2008-present. Committee Member of the Ohio Dyslexia Group

Participant in the collaborative efforts of three Ohio IDA branches including, Ohio Valley, Central Ohio and Northern Ohio toward the goal of the passage of dyslexia legislation throughout the state.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2016, November, Cleveland, OH. International Dyslexia Association Northern Ohio 28th Annual Symposium. Presenter at break-out session. Implementation Science in Public Schools.

2016, October, Orlando, FL. International Dyslexia Association 67th Annual Conference. Presenter at break-out session. Implementation Science in Public Schools.

2016, April, Massillon, OH, Conference for Families and Educators of Children with Diverse Needs. Keynote speaker. Building Language and Literacy Connections. Break-out sessions. Setting the Foundation for Early Literacy and Literacy for the Adolescent.

2015, October, Grapevine, TX. International Dyslexia Association 66th Annual Conference. Presenter at break-out session. IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards: The Driving Force for Implementation of Professional Development in Public Schools.

2014, November, San Diego, CA. International Dyslexia Association 65th Annual Conference. Presenter at break-out session. Setting the Groundwork: The Cohesive Ties of Early Literacy. Presented the clues to dyslexia in early childhood with a focus on identification, screen and early interventions that are effective, evidence-based and developmentally appropriate.

2014, August, Cleveland, OH. Early Learning Conference. Setting the Groundwork: The Cohesive Ties of Early Literacy. Keynote speaker at special education conference. Presented the clues to dyslexia in early childhood with a focus on identification, screen and early interventions that are effective, evidence-based and developmentally appropriate.

2012, October, Baltimore, MD. International Dyslexia Association 63rd Annual Conference. Poster Presentation. What in the World is happening in Ohio? Advocacy Lessons Learned.

PRESENTATIONS

2013, February 13, Canton Country Day School. Disciplinary Literacy. Presenter at staff meeting. Informed teachers about strategies to implement disciplinary literacy to help their students' ability to use reading and writing for the acquisition of new content in each discipline.

2013, February-April, Stark County ESC. Advanced Phonics Using Multisensory Techniques. Wrote and instructed course. This course offers an overview of advanced level phonics instruction, as well as, upper level language concepts that remain a critical part of any reading curriculum. Participants were instructed in the complex aspects of the English written code. There is a focus on the refinement of previously developed procedures and techniques with an emphasis on phonetic, morphologic, semantic, and syntactic structures.

2013, February 7, Cuyahoga County ESC. Dyslexia Basics for Administrators. Wrote and instructed course. This course is designed to assist administrators in making informed decisions for students with dyslexia. It provides a detailed description of the definition and characteristics of dyslexia and the most effective methods for screening, assessment, remediation and intervention. Common evidence of dyslexia at all educational levels or cognitive abilities were highlighted, as well as, the key components of instruction. Administrators learned the theoretical framework for multisensory structured language education and the basic strategies involved in program implementation which ensures adherence to RTI guidelines. The presenter summarized the scientific research and best practices related to the instruction provided to students with dyslexia and the training recommended for teachers using the International Dyslexia Association's *Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading (2010)*. School leaders were informed of the current developments in the Ohio dyslexia laws on dyslexia teacher training (HB 157) and the dyslexia pilot study (HB 96).

2013-2012, Cuyahoga County ESC. Literacy Network: Focus on 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee. Facilitator for literacy network. This network is for literacy specialists, administrators and other interested educators who would like to engage in the topic of literacy surrounding the 3rd grade guarantee. The primary focus is on reading instruction and interventions in the early grades as well as staff support. The network is designed to discuss reading research, examine effective practices and share expertise and resources related to all tiers in the RTI process. The network members will hear updates and collaborate based upon the current advancements in the field of literacy.

2012, November, Firelands Local School District. Reading Research into Practice: Improving Literacy Skills through Common Multisensory Structured Language Programs. Wrote and instructed course. This two day course increased teachers' confidence and understanding of the concepts and procedures from commonly used Multisensory Structured Language (MSLE) programs. The instructor emphasized implementation of MSLE in a small group setting for ensuring and maximizing group success while meeting individual student needs. Application of the ten critical components of MSLE instruction including sound/symbol knowledge, decoding, encoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension were covered.

2012, October 25, Baltimore, MD. Presenter at the 63rd Annual IDA Conference, Reading, Literacy & Learning! What in the World is happening in Ohio? Advocacy Lessons Learned. Planned and implemented presentation at an international conference addressing critical lessons learned in Ohio to get dyslexia legislation passed.

2012, October 18, Massillon, OH. Presenter State Support Team 9. Wrote and instructed course. Testing and Evaluation for Dyslexia: What School Psychologist Need to Know. This two-day course for School Psychologists focuses on identification, screening, testing, and diagnosis for the specific learning disability of dyslexia. It includes a description of comprehensive assessments, including specific cognitive and linguistic processes, as well as, the importance in identifying strengths and

weaknesses for selecting instructional interventions. The aspects of neuropsychology will be compared to dyslexia to strengthen team collaboration. The role of the RtI model including interpreting universal screenings, student placement and progress monitoring will be emphasized. The sessions focus on the fundamental facts about dyslexia and the importance of research-based, scientific Orton-Gillingham methodologies. Individual case studies and examples will be examined.

2012, October 18, Wooster, OH. Presenter for Family & Children First Council at Wooster Christian School. Dyslexia Basics for Parents. Presented to parents a lively discussion on Dyslexia Basics. This evening was filled with information on what causes dyslexia, how widespread it is, the effects, how it is diagnosed, signs at all levels, how it is treated, and the rights of a person with dyslexia. The presenter included creative and smart ideas for managing a child's education, as well as, an explanation of the Ohio dyslexia laws.

2012, August, 6-7. Lorain, OH. Presenter Lorain County ESC. Wrote and instructed course. Testing and Evaluation for Dyslexia: What School Psychologist Need to Know. This two-day course for School Psychologists focuses on identification, screening, testing, and diagnosis for the specific learning disability of dyslexia. It includes a description of comprehensive assessments, including specific cognitive and linguistic processes, as well as, the importance in identifying strengths and weaknesses for selecting instructional interventions. The aspects of neuropsychology will be compared to dyslexia to strengthen team collaboration. The role of the RtI model including interpreting universal screenings, student placement and progress monitoring will be emphasized. The sessions focus on the fundamental facts about dyslexia and the importance of research-based, scientific Orton-Gillingham methodologies. Individual case studies and examples will be examined.

2012, June 21-22, Lorain, OH. Presenter Lorain County ESC. Graduate course instructor. Understanding Dysgraphia: Identifying and Teaching Struggling Writers. Students who show the characteristics of Dysgraphia have trouble with the intricate skills needed for efficient handwriting production. Left untreated, Dysgraphia will undoubtedly affect the quality of written composition. Handwriting is a fine motor, linguistically configured activity. Students must learn to quickly and automatically write letters to form words to translate their thoughts into written form. Using gross motor, kinesthetic processing activities, participants will integrate visual and auditory processing with motor planning for results of efficient and legible written output. During this lively, interactive, and informative course, common characteristics of dysgraphia will be discussed including specific strategies for remediating the areas of handwriting, spelling and writing skills. Participants leave with practical strategies for enhancing writing skills in the classroom and at home.

2012, June 19, Aurora, OH. Presenter at the 55th Annual OAESA Professional Conference & Trade Show. Keeping Ahead of the Curve: House Bills 96 & 157: What Administrators Need to Know? This informative session gave attendees updates on the new dyslexia laws.

2012, March 8, Aurora, OH. Presenter at the NOB/IDA conference, Dyslexia, Diversity & the Future. Unlocking the "Spelling Formula" for students with Language Disabilities. This session emphasizes a direct, explicit, research-based method for teaching the spelling regularities of the English language. Concepts, examples, materials and activities for teaching phonetic spelling, situation spelling and word spelling formulas were presented. The information and strategies enhance any spelling program. Techniques were given to help students transfer skills to their independent writing.

2011, November 4, Fairlawn, OH. Presenter at St. Hilary School. Workshop Presenter. Intervention and Remediation for Dyslexic Students. This all day workshop provided a clear description of Dyslexia and the most effective methods for remediation and intervention. Orton-Gillingham methods and strategies were presented including practical examples of multisensory structured language techniques in

the areas of alphabet, reading, spelling, handwriting, and verbal/written expression. Presented a detailed explanation of the language structure for reading and spelling, as well as interactive games that reinforce the six syllable types.

2011, November 1, Lorain, OH. Presenter at the Special Education & Family Services Region 2 State Support Team. Prepared and delivered presentation on Executive Function. Work Smart: Study Skills and Learning. Presented how to assist regular and learning disabled students in the organization of environment, materials, tasks, and time for study. Emphasized learning styles and processes, as well as organizational patterns and cognitive development of the dyslexic student.

2011, October 25. Orville, OH. Presenter at the Family and Children First Council. Prepared and delivered presentation on parenting a child with dyslexia. Defined dyslexia and covered issues associated with parenting a struggling reader. Topics such as early warning signs, identification, assessment, and effective instruction were addressed. Participants learned the steps necessary to advocate for their child.

2011, March 4. Aurora, OH. Presenter at NOB/IDA Symposium, Catching Children Before They Fail. Prepared and delivered presentation on Dysgraphia, When Writing's a Problem. Taught the characteristics of dysgraphia and the symptoms associated with this learning disability. Specific strategies were presented for remediating the areas of handwriting, spelling and writing skills.

2010, November 30. Columbus, OH. Presenter at 8th Annual Partnering for Progress: "Making a Difference in the Life of Children with Special Needs." Dyslexia Information Session: Identification, Remedial Strategies and Classroom Accommodations. Presented practical intervention strategies based on an Orton-Gillingham lesson.

2010, May 1. R. G. Drage Career Center. Presenter at Conference for Families and Educators of Children with Special Needs. Defined dyslexia and covered issues associated with parenting a struggling reader. Topics such as early warning signs, identification, assessment, and effective instruction were addressed. Participants learned the steps necessary to advocate for their child.

2010, March 5. InterContinental Hotel of the Cleveland Clinic. Presenter at NOB/IDA Symposium. Work Smart: Study Skills and Learning. Presented how to assist regular and learning disabled students in the organization of environment, materials, tasks, and time for study. Emphasized learning styles and processes, as well as organizational patterns and cognitive development of the dyslexic student.

2010, March 1-Present RG Drage Career Center. Workshop Presenter. Intervention and Remediation for Dyslexic Students. This all-day workshop provided a clear description of Dyslexia and the most effective methods for remediation and intervention. Orton-Gillingham methods and strategies were presented including practical examples of multisensory structured language techniques in the areas of alphabet, reading, spelling, handwriting, and verbal/written expression. Presented a detailed explanation of the language structure for reading and spelling, as well as interactive games that reinforce the six syllable types.

2010, February 11. Stark County Educational Service Center. Presenter for Title I Coordinators. Basics of Dyslexia. Provided a clear description of Dyslexia and the most effective methods for remediation and intervention. Orton-Gillingham methods and strategies were presented including practical examples of multisensory structured language techniques in the areas of alphabet, reading, spelling, handwriting, and verbal/written expression.

2010, February 4. InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center, Cleveland, Ohio. Presenter at the ILC/Special Education Directors Meeting. Introduction to Dyslexia. Provided a clear description of Dyslexia and the most effective methods for remediation and intervention. Orton-Gillingham methods and strategies were presented.

2008, March 7. InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center, Cleveland, Ohio. Presenter at International Dyslexia Association Symposium. Building a Multisensory Classroom. Demonstrated various ways to create a multisensory classroom, how to identify and understand different types of learners as well as provide practical activities in the areas of alphabet, phonemic awareness, oral reading fluency, verbal expression and memory.

2007 March 2. InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center, Cleveland, Ohio. Presenter at International Dyslexia Association Symposium. A multitude of Multisensory Games and Activities to Enrich Instruction. Prepared and presented how to incorporate multisensory games into a structured language curriculum for classroom and tutorial settings. Provided hands-on activities.

2004-present. Workshop Facilitator. Walk in the Shoes of a Dyslexic: A Simulation. Various schools around Northeastern Ohio. Facilitates small groups of parents, teachers, professionals, and students to simulate dyslexia.

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING

2016 NOB/IDA 28th Annual Symposium, Cleveland, OH
2016 IDA 67th Annual Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference, Orlando, FL
2016 Neuhaus Education Center Unlocking Literacy Conference, Houston, TX
2015 IDA 66th Annual Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference, Grapevine, TX
2015 ALTA Conference, Richardson, TX
2014 IDA 65th Annual Reading, Literacy & Learning Conference, San Diego, CA
2014 NOB/IDA Symposium, Cleveland, OH
2014 ALTA Conference Richardson, TX
2013 IDA 64th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA
2013 NOB/IDA Symposium. The Many Facets of Dyslexia
2013 ALTA Conference
2012 IDA 63rd Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD
2012 NOB/IDA Symposium. Dyslexia, Diversity & the Future, Aurora, OH
2011 IDA 62nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL
2011 NOB/IDA Symposium. Catching Children Before They Fail. Aurora, OH
2010 IDA 61st Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ
2010 NOB/IDA Symposium. The Reading Brain, Implications for Instruction. Cleveland, OH
2009 IDA 60th Annual Conference. Orlando, FL
2009 NOB/IDA Symposium. The Path from Fluency to Comprehension. Cleveland, OH
2008 NOB/IDA Symposium. Find the Missing Piece. Cleveland, OH
2007 NOB/IDA Symposium. Dyslexia: Bringing Words to Life. Cleveland, OH
2006 NOB/IDA Symposium. Dyslexia: What is it Really? Cleveland, OH
2005 IDA 56th Annual Conference. Reading in the Rockies. Denver, CO
2005 NOB/IDA Symposium. The Science of Reading: Overcoming Dyslexia. Cleveland, OH
2004 IDA 55th Annual Conference. Freedom through Learning. Philadelphia, PA
2004 Grades K-3, Wilson Foundations
2004 SERRC Workshop. DIBELS Benchmark Assessment
2004 NOB/IDA Symposium. Dyslexia: The Reading Brain. Cleveland, OH
2004 Beyond DIBELS: Identification of and Intervention with At-Risk Students.
2003 NOB/IDA Symposium. The Courage to Teach, Learn and Parent. Cleveland, OH

2003 SERRC Workshop. Assistive technology tools in balanced literacy instruction.
2003 Walsh College. Proficiency strategies
2003 SERRC Workshop. Literacy starts with L, but begins with you.
2003 SERRC Workshop. Reading technology.
2003 SERRC Workshop. The Tucker signing strategies.
2003 SERRC Workshop. Ladders to Literacy for the primary grades.
2002 Ashland University. What Really Matters for Struggling Readers.
2002 Ashland University. Mosaic of Thought-Reading Comprehension.
2002 SERRC Workshop. Functional Assessments for Behavioral and Academic Problems.
2002 SERRC Workshop. Picture Exchange Communication System.
2002 SERRC Workshop. Trying to Put it All Together.
2002 IDA 53rd Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA
2002 NOB/IDA Symposium. Dyslexia: Research, Reading and Rithmetic: Making Sense Out of Letters and Numbers. Cleveland, OH
2001 NOB/IDA Symposium. Dyslexia: 2001 – A Reading Odyssey. Cleveland, OH

PUBLICATIONS

Tolson, R.J. & Krnac, V.S. (2015). Legislative Issues for the Early Identification of Dyslexia. *Perspectives on Language and Literacy.*

Innovative Ways of Using Technology to Meet Writing Needs of Students with Learning Disabilities. NOB/IDA Newsletter, Spring 2010.

The Learning Therapy Graduate Program at SMU-Alphabetic Phonics. NOB/IDA Newsletter, Spring 2007.

Alphabetic Phonics. NOB/IDA Newsletter, Fall 2007

The Art of Blending. NOB/IDA Newsletter, Spring 2006.

Capturing Elusive Images: Practical Strategies for Building Orthographic Recall. NOB/IDA Newsletter, Spring 2005.

Emerson Dickman, President–Elect of IDA. NOB/IDA Newsletter, Fall 2005.

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

Cleveland State University Dean’s List: Fall 1987, Fall 1989, Spring 1990, Fall 1990, Winter 1991

Cleveland State University Varsity Swim Team: Four-year full athletic scholarship

Cleveland State University Varsity Swim Team: Outstanding Swimmer Award 1988-89 and 1989-90 seasons

REFERENCES

Larry Orrach, Past President NOB/IDA (440) 454-2628
Lori Josephson, Mentor/International Dyslexia Association (330) 668-0020
Katie Goodwin, former Lippman Day School Principal, (330) 665-4342

