



# Understanding Dyslexia



*A Conference for Parents, Families & Educators.*

## Keynote Address

### 9 – 10am Understanding Dyslexia & How to Advocate for Your Child

- Dr. Kelli Sandman-Hurley Ed.D.,  
*The Dyslexia Training Institute*

### 10:15 – 11am Why Early Identification & Intervention Matters: The Real & Serious Consequences of Failing Our Kids with Dyslexia

- Dr. Linda Siegel, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, U.B.C.

### 11am – 12pm Children with Dyslexia CAN Learn to Read: What They Need & What It Looks like in Practice.

- Nancy Young, Reading, Spelling & Writing Specialist, Consultant, B.A., M. Ed.
- Jan Maclean, BSc. OT, M.Sc.,  
Orton-Gillingham Certified, Founder of The Reading Clinic, Kingston, ON

### 10:15 – 12pm MORNING STUDENT SESSIONS to follow the Keynote address

#### Self-Advocacy for students (appropriate for Grade 8, high school & university students)

- Dr. Kelli Sandman-Hurley Ed.D.

#### The AT insider: Tech Tips for Dyslexic Students Tech Tips for Dyslexic Students

- Jamie Martin, AT Consultant & Trainer

## Lunch 12 – 1pm

### 12 – 12:20pm Surviving and Thriving with Dyslexia

Students with dyslexia share their experience of managing through school and thriving despite the obstacles

### 1 – 2pm AT Solutions for Students with Dyslexia: Case Studies & Options

- Jamie Martin, Assistive Technology Consultant & Trainer

### 2 – 3pm Education Law & Your Child's Rights

- Jane Stewart, B.Sc. (Hons.), J.D. –  
Litigation Lawyer, Justice for Children and Youth

### 3:15 – 4pm Teacher Training & Dyslexia:

What Our Teachers Need to Know & What Our Colleges Need to Be Doing to Help Them

- Liisa Freure, M.Ed., OCT,  
Fellow/AOGPE

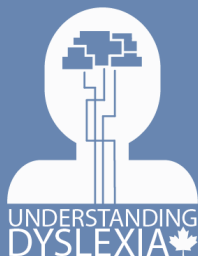
## Closing Address

### 4 – 5pm Uniting for Change: How Parents in New Jersey Ignited a Movement for Change and You Can Too!

- Deborah Lynam, Decoding Dyslexia New Jersey

Saturday November 12, 2016 9am – 6 pm  
Harbourfront Centre, 35 Queens Quay W, Toronto, ON





# Conference Speakers

*Understanding Dyslexia*  
November 12th, 2016

International  
**DYSLEXIA**  
Association®



**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

**Kelli Sandman-Hurley, Ed.D.** is the co-founder of the Dyslexia Training Institute.

She received her doctorate in literacy with a specialization in reading and dyslexia from San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. She is a certified special education advocate assisting parents and children through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plan process (U.S.A.). She has training in mediation and also serves as an expert witness in the area of dyslexia. Dr. Kelli is trained in Structured Word Inquiry, Orton-Gillingham, Lindamood-Bell, RAVE-O and Wilson Reading Programs.

Dr. Sandman-Hurley is the Past-President of the San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. Kelli co-created and produced "Dyslexia for a Day: A Simulation of Dyslexia," and she is a frequent speaker at conferences. Kelli is also the author of *Dyslexia Advocate! How to Advocate for a Child with Dyslexia within the Public Education System* (2016).



**Dr. Linda Siegel,**  
Professor Emeritus,  
University of British  
Columbia

Linda Siegel, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, and Special Education at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, where she holds the Dorothy C. Lam Chair in Special Education.

She has conducted research on the development of reading and of mathematical concepts, language development, dyslexia, mathematical learning disabilities, early identification and intervention to prevent reading difficulties, and the development of reading and language skills in children learning English as a second language.

Dr. Siegel has consulted on the development of reading skills in elementary school age children in Hong Kong, China, Barbados, Brazil, Argentina, and

many places in the US and Canada. In 2010, she was awarded the Gold Medal for Distinguished Contributions to Canadian Psychology from the Canadian Psychological Association. In 2012, she received the inaugural Eminent Researcher Award from the organization Learning Difficulties Australia. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Gothenburg (Sweden).

In 2013, Dr. Siegel published *Understanding Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities*, a book that addresses how our educational system has failed to identify many children with learning disabilities and calls for the adoption of straightforward diagnostic techniques so that treatment options can be implemented at a young age.



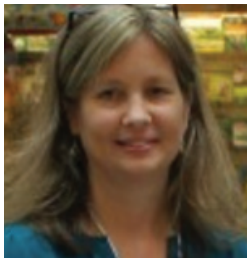
**Jamie Martin,**  
Assistive Technology  
Consultant and Trainer

Jamie Martin is an assistive technology consultant and trainer, specializing in finding AT solutions for students and adults with dyslexia. During his many years in education, he was an Orton-Gillingham language tutor before getting immersed in the world of assistive technology. Having a full understanding of how remediation and accommodation can work together, he developed a successful assistive technology program at The Kildonan School in Amenia, NY before becoming an independent consultant.

Jamie now works one-on-one with students and adults, trains teachers, and writes articles on assistive

technology and dyslexia. He regularly gives presentations at educational conferences, including ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association) and IDA (International Dyslexia Association). He is also on the advisory board for the children's website, Dyslexia-iaville, and he is a regular contributor to the education website, Noodle.

Jamie earned a degree in English Education from Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY, and he trained in assistive technology at the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training in Putney, VT.



**Liisa Freure,**  
M.Ed., OCT, Fellow/  
AOGPE

Liisa Freure is a former elementary school teacher in Toronto who received her M.Ed. from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Liisa's initial interest in research-based interventions for at-risk students began when traditional methods of instruction did not seem to work for some students. Then, after two of her own three children exhibited early signs of dyslexia, Liisa began to learn all that she could about strategies for intervention and remediation.

Liisa now runs a private educational consulting and tutoring practice for students of all ages and trains teachers in the Orton-Gillingham approach. In addition to her background in Special Education, Liisa is certified as an education advocate and is a Fellow of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. She has been actively involved with the Ontario Branch of the International Dyslexia Association since 2007 and has served in various roles including President.



**Nancy Young,**  
Reading Specialist,  
B.A., M.Ed.

Nancy Young is an experienced educator with extensive knowledge of evidence-based approaches to teaching reading, spelling and writing for both the general classroom and intervention programs.

At present, Nancy provides consulting services to schools and individual families located in British Columbia, Alberta, and across Canada. This includes teacher PD and coaching, assessment (Level B), IEP planning and implementation, and parent education. Her areas of specialty include dyslexia, executive function, ADHD, giftedness, and the learning of English as an additional language.

Nancy is a member of the International Dyslexia Association, a member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (non-voting), and a supporter of the International Foundation for Effective Reading Instruction. She is also an advisor for Decoding Dyslexia BC.

A strong believer that learning should be engaging and fun, yet very aware that reading and spelling mastery for the majority of students entails explicit instruction, Nancy is the author of the newly published book *Secret Code Actions™: A Resource to Support Learning to Read and Spell the English Language* (2016).



**Jan Maclean,**  
O.T., Reading Specialist,  
The Reading Clinic,  
Kingston, ON

Jan Maclean worked for thirty years as an occupational therapist, treating adults with a wide variety of physical disabilities. In 1994 she received her M.Sc. in Rehabilitation from Queen's University. Jan completed her Associate level Orton-Gillingham training in 2007 and in 2008 became one of only a handful of Orton-Gillingham practitioners to have attained the Certified level in Ontario.

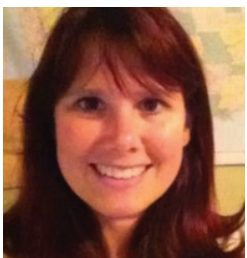
Jan co-founded The Reading Clinic in Kingston, ON, Eastern Ontario's only intensive reading clinic for students with reading difficulties and dyslexia. Since 2012, the Clinic has expanded to offer specialized one-to-one programming in Written Expression, and in Mathematics.

Jan's background as an occupational therapist enables her to appreciate the neurological basis of reading

disabilities and the importance of evidence-based practice. Jan's experience as a mother of children with dyslexia has made her sensitive to the concerns and frustrations of parents who have children with reading problems.

She offers a series of free public lectures for parents about the warning signs of reading disabilities, as early identification is so important. She is also a regular speaker at the Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston and a member of the International Dyslexia Association.

Jan is a past board member for the Ontario Branch of the International Dyslexia Association [www.idaontario.com](http://www.idaontario.com), where she currently serves on the advisory board.



**Deborah Lynam,**  
Founding Member  
Decoding Dyslexia NJ

Deborah Lynam is currently the Director of Partnerships and Engagement at the AIM Institute for Learning & Research and frequent speaker on dyslexia nationwide.

She is co-chair of NJ's State Special Education Advisory Council and a former Family Resource Specialist for the NJ Parent Training and Information Center, SPAN.

She volunteers as a reading tutor for The Reading Assist Institute and was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award in 2013 by the NJ Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. Two of her three children are dyslexic.



**Jane Stewart,**  
B.Sc. (Hons.), J.D. –  
Litigation Lawyer,  
Justice for Children  
and Youth

Jane Stewart is an experienced and dedicated advocate who is passionate about assisting vulnerable young people and the promotion of youth and child rights. Jane graduated from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law and articulated with the federal Department of Justice's Legal Excellence program with a particular focus on criminal and human rights law. Following her call to the Bar of Ontario in 2010, Jane practiced for three years with the Department of Justice before joining a boutique litigation firm, where her practice focused on Aboriginal law and child welfare. Jane has also worked as an intern with U of T's Health Equity and Law Clinic, traveling to Trinidad to assist a non-governmental organization on a court application to promote

access to safe and equitable reproductive health services. Jane has appeared before all levels of court in Ontario as well as the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal and a number of administrative tribunals.

