

The San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association presents:
The First Annual Spring Conference
May 8, 2010
University of San Diego



Keynote Speaker:
John Corcoran

John Corcoran is the author of the book, *The Teacher Who Couldn't Read*, a memoir of his years as a non-reader who did not learn to master the written word until the age of 48. Corcoran's 1994 autobiography catapulted him into the national spotlight as a literacy advocate and champion for those who linger in the sub-culture of illiteracy. Corcoran's second book, *Bridge to Literacy: No Child - or Adult - Left Behind* is a powerful call to action to eradicate illiteracy still prevalent in America. Corcoran's compelling personal experiences as an advocate over the past twenty years are interspersed with interviews with researchers, public school educators, policy makers, community-based literacy educators, parents, learners, media, and service organizations.

Please join us for a full day of resources, information, and networking about dyslexia.

Workshops will cover the following topics:

- IEPs
- Neuropsychological Testing
 - Dyslexia Basics
- A simulation of dyslexia
- Special Education Law
 - Parent Resources

(Continental breakfast and luncheon included)

Conference will be held at:
University of San Diego
Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

Space is limited!
Send in your registration no later than
April 8, 2010!

Workshop Descriptions

Neuropsychological Tests

Dr. Spencer Wetter

This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of how Dyslexia and other Learning Disabilities are assessed. Emphasis will be placed both on the actual testing itself as well as discussion of recent research on the brain changes associated with these difficulties. The link between assessment and treatment strategies will also be made.

IEPs

Dr. Diane Marques

"IEP, SLD, ASD AND NVLD" This presentation will help parents understand how specific learning disabilities are defined under current California educational statutes, and how that relates to medical categories of learning disabilities and other operational definitions such as dyslexia, central auditory processing disorder and nonverbal learning disabilities. This presentation will help parents and professionals develop a crosswalk between these categories and recognize who talks "apples" and who talks "oranges".

Parent Resources

Elena Mendoza

This workshop will introduce parents and interested parties to resources such as books, websites and DVD's that are useful in learning more about dyslexia and learning disabilities.



Presenter Profiles on Page Four

Walking in the Shoes of Someone with Dyslexia

Presenters: IDA Board Members

First Half

What is it like to have dyslexia? What does it feel like to struggle with everyday reading and writing tasks? This highly interactive workshop of simulations provides participants the opportunity to experience some of the challenges and frustrations people with dyslexia endure when trying to read and write. After completing the simulations there will be a thought-provoking discussion about your experience and what school, work and daily life might be like for people with learning disabilities.

Second Half— Megan Cohen

This session is geared to both parents and educators who want to better understand dyslexia and how it affects their children or students. Ms. Cohen will present and discuss our current neurological understanding of dyslexia and how this helps us to design effective intervention strategies with dyslexic children or adults. The second half of the talk will look at Learning Styles and Differences – how we process information and the impact on reading.

Special Ed Law & Advocacy

Thomas Nelson, Attorney

Do you have a child with learning disabilities? Do you know what your rights are under California law? This workshop will cover the following topics:

- 504/IDEA – Assessments and Eligibility
- 504 Plan vs. an IEP
- FAPE
- services and Classroom accommodations,
- Advantages/disadvantages of public vs. private schools,
- paying for private testing and/or private tutoring, parent's rights for reimbursements and
- what is compensatory education?

Workshop Presenters

Dr. Spencer Wetter received his Ph.D. at the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State. He has worked extensively with children and adults providing neuropsychological assessment. His experience includes several clinical populations, such as Autism, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, Learning Disabilities, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Dementia. His career has been dedicated to understanding how these disorders affect the brain, how they impact people's lives, and what are the most effective methods of intervention. Dr. Wetter currently continues this work at The Applied Neuropsychological Institute in La Jolla, CA, and at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. He is also on the board of the San Diego Chapter of the International Dyslexia Association, and a contributing member of Pediatric Neuropsychology Rounds at Rady Children's Hospital.

Dr. Diane Marques has been a licensed psychologist since 1988, and has worked at RCHSD since November, 2007. Diane received her Ph.D. in 1986 from the University of Rhode Island and completed her predoctoral internship at Boston Children's Hospital Medical Center/Harvard Medical School. She has extensive experience as a staff psychologist at Boston Children's Hospital and served as Chief, Child and Adolescent Division, Lake Shore Hospital, Manchester, N.H. She also has had lengthy experience in the public schools, and holds a school psychology credential. Her special interests and training are in the areas of children's mental health and special education needs.

Megan Cohen Megan received her B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in International Political Economy and her Master's degree in Elementary Education and California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Loyola Marymount University. Megan served as Elementary Director for Wells Academic Solutions, developing a successful K-6 program. Megan's professional background includes teaching first grade through Teach for America in inner city Los Angeles, mentoring and tutoring inner city students, and presenting teacher-training workshops on school-site and for the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE). Megan is currently pursuing her Certificate in Educational Therapy through the UC Riverside Extension. She has taken continuing education courses on reading assessment and instruction, dyslexia, and ADHD through the UC Extension Programs and the Center for Child Development at UC Irvine. In addition, she completed Lindamood-Bell's training on the language processing programs, Seeing Stars and Visualizing and Verbalizing. Megan currently serves on the board of the San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and is an active member of the Association for Educational Therapists.

Elena Mendoza is an Educational Therapist and an expert in the diagnosis and remediation of language based learning disabilities. As a former Consultant for Lindamood-Bell® Centers, Elena has experience with proven, process-based programs that address difficulties in reading, spelling, comprehension, language, and math.

Thomas Nelson is a Special Education attorney with over 22 years of Litigation experience who has prosecuted over 12 cases in State, Federal, and Administrative proceedings. Mr. Nelson is a two-time recipient of the State Bar Award for his Pro Bono Legal Services on behalf of Special Needs Children.



For Registration questions please contact: sdidainfo@gmail.com or 619-685-4413