



New Jersey Branch of the International Dyslexia Association

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Volume 28

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NJIDA Referral Service

NJIDA maintains a referral service for parents and professionals. This service provides names of qualified diagnosticians, as well as educational therapists and reading specialists trained in Orton-Gillingham methodologies. We continue to seek qualified individuals throughout the state who would like to be included on this referral list.

If you would like to be considered for our referral list, please contact the National Branch Office at www.interdys.org for an application. Completion of the application and screening by NJIDA's Executive Board are prerequisites. Membership in IDA is also a requirement for inclusion.

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Contact us at:

(908) 876-1179
njida@msn.com

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NJIDA AND NJSHA PRESENT

The 18th Annual Spring Conference 2010

Dynamic Vocabulary Instruction

Dr. Anita Archer
Author of:

Skills for Student Success
REWARDS
Phonics for Reading

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
8:00am - 3:30pm
Newark Airport Marriott

The Eighteenth Annual Conference on Students with Oral and Written Language Disabilities, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and the New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association will take place on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at the Newark Marriott Hotel at Newark Liberty Airport. Dr. Anita Archer

will offer this year's program, *Dynamic Vocabulary Instruction*.

Dr. Archer's presentation will focus on vocabulary, the increasingly important predictor of academic success as students proceed through school. Vocabulary skills are directly related to reading comprehension. In this session, evidence based procedures for increasing vocabulary through the use of high quality classroom language, read-alouds, explicit vocabulary instruction, word learning strategies and wide-reading will be explored.

Research-validated procedures will be demonstrated and practiced with classroom videos illustrating the procedures.

Dr. Archer serves as an educational consultant to school districts on effective instruction, classroom management, reading and writing instruction, and design of effective literacy programs. She has taught elementary and middle school students. She has been the recipient of ten Outstanding Education awards. Dr. Archer has been a faculty member at San Diego State University, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon. She co-authored *Skills for School Success*, a study skills program for elementary and middle school students, *REWARDS*, a program to teach students advanced decoding and fluency skills, and *REWARDS Writing* with Dr. Mary Gleason. Dr. Archer has also co-authored *Phonics for Reading*.

See Registration Form Below!

Notes From Dee

Last week I read in the newspaper that there have been too many "top ten" lists, "best of" lists and "worst of" lists as the decade came to an end. I like lists...they are to the point and quick to read for those of us with precious minutes to spare, so I created yet another list to begin the decade. My list is not quite top ten, but more mnemonic, (I can't help it, my background is as a special education teacher!) Here is my mnemonic list to start off the decade for NJIDA. Each note begins with the following letters NJDYSLEXIA!

N New law passed! Legislation S2400 establishes a Reading Task Force in NJ

J Join NJIDA and get your friends, colleagues and others to join too!

D Dyslexic students continue to need expert multisensory language (MSL) instruction (Look on line at interdys.org)

Y You can find great staff development about MSL instruction at NJIDA conferences (Look on the NJIDA website that will be on-line very soon!)

S Summer Institutes Food For Thought (SIFFT) are terrific and inexpensive courses to help you get expert professional

development (call NJIDA)

L Literacy for Adults is available again in New Jersey (call NJIDA)

E Early Education Screening for Reading Difficulty is available through NJIDA's 100 Kids in 10 Days program (Call NJIDA)

X (I hate the letter X... it is never represented properly in early literacy, store bought books that explain the alphabet, so I am boycotting it for this list!)

I Innovative and creative technologies such as Garage band, Kindle and e-readers can be used to empower dyslexic individuals to perform at increased levels. (See Gordon Sherman's Top Ten List in the next issue of *IDA Perspectives!*)

A Anita Archer is coming to teach us all about Comprehension on March 10! (See the ad in this newsletter!)

Happy New Year and Happy Decade everyone! I hope to see and hear from all of you soon!

**Dee Rosenberg,
President, NJIDA**

CALLING FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR THE EILEEN GRASSO FUND-RAISING DINNER

Each year, at the annual Fall Conference, the New Jersey Branch presents the Nieswand Outstanding Student Award and the Literacy for All Award. These honors are bestowed upon an individual with dyslexia and a school district respectively during the Eileen Grasso Dinner. Any teacher, parent, or individual may make a nomination given that certain requirements are met.

In addition, the Community Service Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award are presented to individuals who have demonstrated tireless volunteerism and professional dedication in their work for NJIDA.

Following is a description of each of the four awards. If you feel that an individual, school or school district is deserving of such a recognition, then **please send a letter of recommendation by 6/30/10 to NJIDA Annual Awards Committee, Box 32, Long Valley, New Jersey 07853.**

The Neiswand Outstanding Student Award is presented to an individual with dyslexia: 1) may be of any age, 2) has committed a minimum of two years to reading remediation, 3) demonstrates, despite his/her ongoing challenges, a positive attitude, motivation, and

understanding of his/her struggles.

The Literacy for All Award is presented to a school or school district: 1) may be from the public or private sector, 2) may be from a rural, suburban, or urban area, 3) demonstrates a minimum of a two year commitment to a multisensory reading program, which has promoted early identification and research based interventions.

The Community Service Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated tireless volunteerism and unflagging dedication to advance the mission of NJIDA. The result of these noteworthy efforts have made a significant contribution in improving outcomes for individuals with dyslexia. This individual need not be a member of NJIDA.

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented to a professional who, through their work in NJIDA, has made a longstanding commitment and continuous contributions in the field of learning disabilities that have resulted in a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with dyslexia and their families.

The recipients, who have received these awards in the past, unanimously claim that the recognition made a significant difference in their lives, often giving them the courage and hope to continue in their pursuit. NJIDA is proud to honor such individuals.

**One Hundred Kids in
Ten Days**

The New Jersey Branch has made an exciting proposal to IDA to screen 100 preschool and kindergarten children in ten days and identify those who are at risk for failure in learning to read. The project is called "100 Kids in Ten Days."

The volunteers from NJIDA will use the screening instrument known as DIBELS. Once testing is completed, we plan to present the teachers with the tools and strategies that will help them to deliver a successful early literacy intervention program. NJIDA members who are trained in these areas, and who are interested in participating in this project should contact the NJIDA office. Any schools or districts who are interested in these services should also contact the NJIDA office.

New Jersey Reading Disabilities Task Force Created

On January 16, 2010, Acting Governor Stephen Sweeney signed A880/S2400 establishing the New Jersey Reading Disabilities Task Force. The Task Force will be charged with the responsibility to "study and evaluate practices for diagnosing, treating, and educating children with reading disabilities, and

examine how current statues and regulations affect these students, in order to develop recommendations to be presented to the Governor and the Legislature." The task force includes thirteen members, including one member recommended by each of the following organizations: The New Jersey Branch of the Learning Disabilities Association of America, the New Jersey Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the New Jersey Education Association.

FALL CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

By Maria Torres-Kimmins

Last year's NJIDA Fall Conference, *The Challenge Is Here: Mindsets and Knowledge are Powerful Tools*, was a huge success, based on the feedback from our attendees. The Princeton Double Tree Hotel did a fabulous job accommodating all of us, especially since we did not expect to have the huge turnout that we did during these challenging times. Dr. Robert Brooks received rave reviews. His books sold out and he definitely made it a "feel good kind of day." The room was filled with laughter, piqued interests, tears, and a renewed sense of appreciation for what we all do. In using the concepts of "mindsets," Dr. Brooks provided a strength-based approach for nurturing motivation, learning, hope, and resilience in children with learning problems and in ourselves.

Additionally, many teachers participated in quite a bit of learning. We sponsored a two day course presented by Kathy Bostock, Susan Miller, and Dee Rosenberg on LETRS Module 1: Challenge of Learning to Read and Module 2: Speech Sounds of the English Language: Phonetics, Phonology, and Phoneme Awareness, where teachers earned credits and received in depth knowledge about our language.

Many expert presenters shared their wisdom and skills about integrating multisensory programs and strategies to enhance the achievement of our dyslexic students. Topics included early literacy intervention, morphology, fluency, writing, and math instruction for dyslexic learners. Jodie Dawson, from the FDU Regional Center helped us to focus on assisting students with learning disabilities at the college level. John Pirres brought a panel of college students from FDU with him to explain their experiences as dyslexic students, their preparation for higher education and the transition from high school to college.

Other sessions addressed peripheral issues to learning in the classroom. IDA Past President, Emerson Dickman discussed avoiding conflict, promoting partnerships and improving outcomes for children. Kristin Sharma, discussed the critical elements of a good neuropsychological evaluation. Recognizing that new technology continues to have an increasingly major role in both regular and special education, we presented several sessions about using the Smartboard and the iPod to enhance English language acquisition and comprehension. We also learned about the current uses of assistive technology for students with dyslexia.

We are already busy planning our next conference, at which Dr. Eric Tridas will be our keynote speaker. The conference will be held on Friday, October 22, 2010, so save the date for another exciting day filled with new learning for all of us, as well as a chance to communicate and collaborate with colleagues from around our state, all of whom have a passion for enriching the lives of individuals with dyslexia.

**Dr. Eric Tridas
Will Deliver the Keynote Address
At the Fall Conference October
22**

The New Jersey Branch is proud to announce that Dr. Eric Tridas, the Director of the Tridas Center for Child Development will be the keynote speaker at the fall conference. He is a board-certified pediatrician who specializes in the diagnosis and management of developmental and behavioral conditions such as ADHD, learning disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and other neurodevelopmental problems.

Dr. Tridas is a clinical assistant professor in family practice at the University of South Florida School of Medicine. He is a member of the national board of the International Dyslexia Association. Dr. Tridas is also the state medical director for Pediatric Health Choice Prescribed Extended Care P-PEC facilities.

He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Developmental Pediatrics, the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, and the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.

REGISTRATION FORM
NJSHA & NJIDA Spring 2010 Conference

Name: _____

Address: _____

Job Title: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fees:
(Please Check One)

NJSHA Member: \$160.00 _____

NJIDA Member: \$160.00 _____

Non - Member: \$185.00 _____

Student: \$ 60.00 _____ (Provide Proof)

ASHA CEU Processing Fee ___\$5.00

TOTAL: _____

Return this form with a check or purchase order postmarked no later than 3/3/10 to:

NJSHA

390 Amwell Road, Suite 402

Hillsborough, NJ 08844-4693

Registration includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and parking.

School Districts can send five teachers for the price of four.