



March 5, 2016

ONBIDA's

Literacy & Learning Conference



**Ontario Science Centre
770 Don Mills Road
Toronto, M3C 1T3**



Finding Success in the Classroom!



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Dale Willows

**A Balanced Literacy Diet:
A Powerful Professional Development Resource for
Regular and Special Education Classrooms**



Dr. Dale Willows and her team have launched a comprehensive multimedia professional development website and a YouTube channel to support evidence-informed literacy education and special education. Both sites are vast and packed with practical information for teachers, administrators, classroom support staff, parents and other professionals who work with students with literacy needs. Join us as Dr. Willows reviews concepts critical for literacy instruction and demonstrates how to navigate these sites to best meet the varied needs of Ontario's K-Grade 6 classrooms.

The Perfect Resource for your Next PLC!

Teacher Professional Learning Goals

- *Learn or review what is meant by effective literacy instruction in elementary grades*
- *Learn how to search for and find hundreds of lesson plans and how-to-videos relating to the following topics:*
Stages of Literacy Development, Motivation, Oral Language, ELL, Knowledge Building, Concepts of Print, Writing Conventions, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Spelling, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension Strategies, Writing Process Strategies, Text Structure, Assessment
 - *Visit virtual classrooms to learn from expert teachers*
- *Learn how to find resources and suggestions to alter lessons to meet the needs of your students*

Administrator Professional Learning Goals

- *Learn why literacy should be the top curriculum priority*
- *Learn how to introduce this free resource to your school staff to build capacity in your staff and their knowledge in classroom set up, literacy assessment, and differentiated instruction*

Parent Learning Goals

- *Learn what children need in order to read and write*
- *Learn what exemplary classrooms look like*

Dr. Willows is a Full Professor in the Department of Human Development and Applied Psychology at OISE, UofT. Her areas of specialization are language, literacy, and learning disabilities. She's made numerous presentations at conferences around the world and her work has been published in books, and articles. She was a member of the National Reading Panel in the USA, as well as the Early Reading Expert Panel in Ontario. As a Teacher Educator she has taught numerous practical courses on reading and writing to teacher candidates and experienced teachers. As a Registered Psychologist in the area of learning disabilities she has taught courses on assessment and intervention for many years and has provided clinical supervision to school psychology students to assist them in understanding struggling readers and writers.



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Time	Conference at a Glance		
7:30-8:00	Registration, Coffee & Tea, Exhibitor Hall		
8:00-8:15	Welcoming Remarks & Review of the Day's Schedule		
8:15-8:45	President's Address & Student Presentation		
8:45-9:45	Dr. Dale Willows The Balanced Literacy Diet: A Powerful Professional Development Resource for Regular and Special Education		
9:45-10:15	Refreshments & Exhibitor Hall		
10:15- 11:30	Dr. Dale Willows Cont'd The Balanced Literacy Diet: A Powerful Professional Development Resource for Regular and Special Education		
11:30-12:15	Lunch & Exhibitor Hall		
12:15-1:45	Breakout Session 1 Liisa Freure Beyond Magic 'E' : An Introduction to Syllable Patterns	Breakout Session 2 Emily Moorhead Implementing MSS Language Program in FDK	Breakout Session 3 Sherry Raffalovitch Robust Vocabulary Instruction in the Classroom
1:45-2:00	Transition to Breakout Sessions 4,5 & 6		Draw for Prize Winners
2:00:3:30	Breakout Session 4 David Budd Read and Write Gold Workshop	Breakout Session 5 Dana Sahian iPad and IEP	Breakout Session 6 Jana Leggett Searching the Net for Resources and Classroom Support
3:30-3:45	Closing Remarks & Draw Winners Announced		



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Concurrent Session 1 12:15 – 1:45pm

Beyond “Magic E”: An Introduction to Syllables and a few Basic Spelling Patterns

~Liisa Freure, M.Ed., OCT, FIT/AOGPE

If your knowledge about syllables is limited to “clapping the beats” and “magic –e”, this is the workshop for you! Although it is important for students to know how to count syllables, learning about the six basic syllable types can also be an important strategy to help students with decoding and encoding of words. This hands-on workshop will explain the basic syllable types and touch on some of the basic spelling patterns in English. Ideas for how to incorporate this teaching in the classroom or tutoring session will be shared.

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 an Orton-Gillingham trained remedial language therapist. She has been actively involved with the Ontario Branch of the International Dyslexia Association since 2007 and has served in various roles including President.

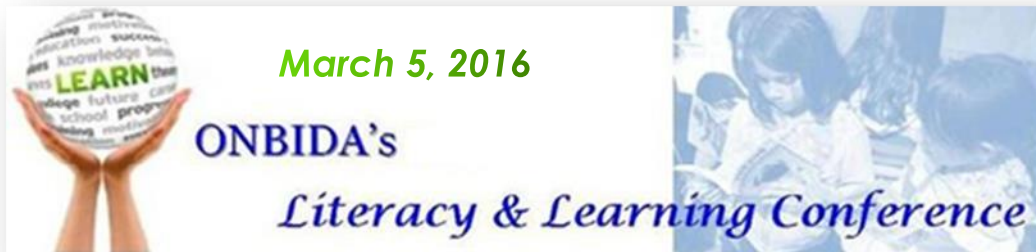
Concurrent Session 2 12:15 – 1:45pm

Implementing Multi-Sensory Structured Language Program in FDK

~Emily Moore, M.Ed

Emily Moorhead is a Kindergarten teacher who has successfully used a Multi-Sensory Structured Language program to develop early literacy skills in Kindergarten and Grade One students. She will explore how she used focused instruction as part of her full-day Kindergarten program to build foundational literacy skills through daily small-group direct instruction, guided practice, and connection to home.

Emily Moorhead is a kindergarten teacher in Kingston who completed her B.Ed at Queen’s University in 2003. Emily found that traditional reading instruction was leaving many young readers “in the dark,” and she sought support, both personally, for her child, and professionally, to support the development of reading mechanics in these young struggling readers. She soon found that a combination of daily playful, direct instruction, and a systematic, multi sensory approach, improved children’s letter learning and early word reading skills, while improving children’s feelings about their sustained efforts, and providing tools to help parents help their children. Emily’s young students eagerly look forward to small group sessions, as well as whole class learning, during which they practice letter sound reading, “spelling,” letter formation and printing, and decodable word-reading skills — all with immediate feedback! Emily uses this approach with all of her Kindergarten students; those who exhibit early signs of reading difficulty benefit greatly, while every child gains essential foundational skills for reading success.



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Concurrent Session 3 **12:15 – 1:45pm**
Robust Vocabulary Instruction in the Classroom
~Sherry Raffalovitch, MHSc., SLP

The understanding and use of vocabulary have shown to be strong predictors of academic success. In your classroom you will have students who struggle to learn new vocabulary for various reasons. The great news is that as a teacher you can support these students in their vocabulary growth by using robust vocabulary instruction. Beck, McKeown and Kucan (2002) described robust vocabulary instruction as “direct explanation of the meanings of words along with thought-provoking playful and interactive follow-up”. In this session you will learn; why robust vocabulary instruction is critical for many students; who to identify as being “at-risk”, and several hands-on, whole class instructional strategies that you can take home and try in your classroom.

Sherry Raffalovitch is a Speech-Language Pathologist who is in her fifteenth year working for the Toronto District School Board. Sherry started her career with TDSB in the Kindergarten Early Language Intervention Program (KELI) where she co-instructed with a teacher to support at-risk senior kindergarten students. She went on to design and pilot a co-instructional research based approach to teaching literacy for Grade 1 and 2 students. Sherry designed and ran a summer school program for at risk primary students at Thorncliffe Park in 2014 and continued that program in 2015. She also served as the Vice-President of ONBIDA from 2012-2015. Sherry is a passionate advocate for explicit decoding and language instruction in the school board and has had the privilege of co-instructing with many wonderful teachers during her time with TDSB.

Concurrent Session 4 **2:00 – 3:30 pm**
Read and Write Gold Workshop
~David Budd, M.Ed

Read & Write 11 is an outstanding program available to students at school and families at home through the TDSB. It provides reading, writing, studying, and research support tools within familiar applications. Compatible with PC's, Google Chromebooks, iPad, and Android devices, Read and Write 11's customizable toolbar provides many options to ensure every learner has the supports necessary to reach their potential, become more independent, and succeed. This session will provide an introduction and overview of the program, identifying tools such as Predictive Text, Text-to-Speech, Spell Check, Researching, Vocabulary Development, Audio Recording and many others. These tools have the potential to propel the learning and output of students with many different profiles, ranging from Primary to Secondary levels.

David Budd is an educator who thoroughly enjoys the variety and scope of his role as a Special Education Consultant in the Toronto District School Board. A strong advocate for building empathy and capacity for understanding, he has been an active member of several committees within the TDSB community, including Human Rights, Focus on Success, Equity, Professional Learning, Literacy, Aspiring Leaders, and Safe and Caring Schools. A member of the Digital Lead Learners network in the TDSB, he has presented to many audiences on the power of Assistive Technology, its equalizing effects for students with special needs, its significance in engaging student learning, and its importance as a tool for student voice.



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Concurrent Session 5 2:00 – 3:30 pm

The iPad and the IEP: How to Cultivate Student Success

~Dana Sahian, MHSc., SLP

Ever wonder how and if the iPad fits in with your child or student's IEP goals? In this session, Dana will demonstrate a variety of apps and tools on the iPad that can be used to support students on IEP's. Areas discussed will include organization, attention, reading, writing, independence and overall academic success. This session will be beneficial for parents, teachers and other caregivers of students with Dyslexia and other LD's. By the end of the session, participants will have a good understanding of how the iPad can be used as a tool to support many of the instructional, learning and assessment accommodations on the IEP.

Dana Sahian is a Speech and Language Pathologist, Assistive Technology Enthusiast and the Founder and Clinical Director of SLP4ALL (Strengthening Learning Potentials for ALL) in Toronto. After spending over 15 years in the public sector where she witnessed countless students struggle with out-dated technology, Dana created SLP4ALL to be able to combine her two passions of Speech and Language Therapy with Assistive Technology for learning. Dana is a frequent presenter on the topic of iPads in the classroom and the workplace and has helped individuals with a wide range of learning challenges be better equipped to do their work using tools that level the playing field for them while instilling in them a sense of confidence and "normalcy". In addition to her professional hat, Dana is also the parent of three children with learning differences and knows the value of having tools that are cool, easy to learn, easy to use and socially "acceptable".

Concurrent Session 6 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Searching the Net for Evidence-Informed Resources & Lesson Plans

~Jana Leggett, MHSc., SLP

There are many literacy resources, lesson plans and strategies on the internet; however, many of them are not evidence-based or evidence-informed. Are you looking for quality resources, explanations, lesson plans and strategies developed by leaders in the field of literacy instruction but not sure where to find them? Join Jana in this session as she takes you through a series of sites that offer research, information, free lesson plans, materials and much more to help assist you in your classroom lesson planning.

Jana Leggett is a speech and language pathologist with the Toronto District School Board where her work includes lesson plan development and co-instruction in special education classrooms. She is also an adjunct lecturer in the department of Speech Language Pathology, UofT. She is a co-author of Oral Language at Your Finger Tips published by OSLA and the author of Advanced Literacy Practices, a Continued Education course at the University of Toronto.



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Early Bird Registration Deadline: Feb. 14, 2016

On-Line Registration Closes: March 3, 2016

	Early Bird	Regular	March 5
Members	\$80	\$125	\$200
Non-Members	\$100	\$150	\$200
Students	\$80	\$125	\$200

About ONBIDA

The Ontario Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is a non-profit charitable organization founded in June 2004, charitable registration number 85713 3078 RR0001, to assist people with dyslexia, their families and the professionals who work with them. In addition to offering an annual conference, ONBIDA creates public awareness of dyslexia, holds various educational and support events throughout the year, responds to thousands of public inquiries annually, maintains a referral list of testing/tutoring resources, provides teacher training and outreach presentations and assessment scholarships. ONBIDA has also been working to forge partnerships with like-minded organizations.

ONBIDA's Elie Roth Scholarship

The Elie Roth Scholarship is aimed at providing funding for students, professionals who work in the field of special education, parents or persons with dyslexia, who require financial assistance. The scholarship covers the full registration fee. **The deadline for application is Feb. 1, 2016.** Applicants will be notified by Feb. 10, 2016. Please download the scholarship application at www.idaontario.com/Annual-Conference.html

Prizes!

Be the 1st, 25th, 50th and 100th person to register and receive a free resource!

Early Bird Registration Ends Feb. 14, 2016

Pre-registration for the conference ends March 3, 2016. Any registration received after March 3, 2016 will not be processed and will be returned. Onsite registrations will still be available. Should you have difficulty registering on-line please contact info@idaontario.com or call 416-716-9296.

Members & Students

IDA members must include their Membership number on the registration form to be eligible for the member rate. Please email info@interdys.org if you do not know your membership number. Students must provide proof of full-time student status to access the student rate. Please email a copy of your student ID within 24 hours of online registration to info@idaontario.com.

Non-Members

Would you like to become a member? Current membership rates are as follows: Parents \$45 Student \$25 Professional \$95 For more information go to www.interdys.org and click JOIN.

Cancellation Policy

The cancellation deadline is February 21, 2016. There will be no refunds for cancellations of any kind after this date or for no-shows on the day of the conference. Cancellations received on or before February 21, 2016 will be eligible for a 50% refund. All refunds will be processed 6-8 weeks after the conference. If you are unable to attend, you may transfer your registration to another person. Non-members substituting for members will be charged the additional non-member fee. Please e-mail notifications of cancellation or transfer to info@idaontario.com.

We're Going Green

Please note that ONBIDA **will not** be providing printed materials at the conference. All registrants will be provided with a Dropbox account prior to the conference. Registrants may print the material as needed. Sharing of the material outside with non-registrants is strictly prohibited. OSC has full Wi-Fi access and codes will be given on the day of the conference. Please note that some speakers will not be providing handouts.