

ALIDA SPRING READING CONFERENCE
Creating Dyslexia Friendly Learning Environments
Hettie P. Johnson, CCC/SLP
Dorothy H. Strong, CALT
Dr. Denise P. Gibbs, ASHA Fellow, CCC/SLP

Date: Friday, March 11, 2016
Time: 8:30am CST to 4:00pm CST
Check in and registration 8:00am
Workshop begins at 8:30am

Location: Mountaintop Community Church
225 Centerview Drive
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Fees: \$35 for IDA members and \$50 for non-members
Lunch included.

Workshop Description:

- In session one, Hettie Johnson will provide participants with insights into the impact of situational stress on learning outcomes for students with dyslexia and with strategies to minimize this stress. For children with dyslexia, the stress of learning to read can lead to a downward spiral in which the child's reaction to that stress causes a fight or flight response resulting in brain shut down for learning. SPA is an acronym for self-talk, positive mistake correction, and asking for what you need in order to feel safe and ready for learning. SPA is a group of user-friendly strategies that can counter the negative response to stress created by learning challenges.
- In sessions two and three, a team of Madison County teachers led by Dorothy Strong will provide participants with examples of multi-sensory classroom strategies and accommodations that will positively impact learning outcomes for students with dyslexia.
- In session four, Denise Gibbs will provide participants with insights into free Google-based extensions and applications along with Bookshare applications that assist students with dyslexia in overcoming reading and writing challenges through text-to-speech and speech-to-text opportunities.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Participants will be able to describe and teach students to use self-talk, positive mistake correction, and asking for what is needed (SPA) strategies. (segment 1)
2. Participants will be able to recognize environmental situations and challenges that require use of multi-sensory classroom strategies and accommodations. (segment 2)
3. Participants will be able to match environmental situations and challenges with the most effective strategies and accommodations across grade-levels and content areas. (segment 3)
4. Participants will be able to describe environmental situations and challenges that result in a student's need for speech-to-text and text-to-speech technology applications. (segment 4)
5. Participants will be able to access Google Chrome applications and Bookshare applications across various computer platforms and operating systems . (segment 4)

Time Ordered Agenda:

8:30-10:00.....Segment 1....Reducing Classroom Stress for Increased Success

10:00-10:15.....Break

10:15-12:15...Segment 2....Creating a Dyslexia-Friendly Classroom: Multi-Sensory Strategies

12:15-12:45...Lunch (provided onsite)

12:45-2:45.....Segment 3....Creating a Dyslexia-Friendly Classroom: Accommodations

2:45-3:00.....Break

3:00-4:00.....Segment 4....Google and Bookshare: Free Text to Speech and Speech to Text Tools

About the speakers:

Hettie P. Johnson served three terms as Secretary of the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama, has been President of the Mobile Area Speech and Hearing organization, served two terms as Vice-President of the Alabama Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (ALIDA) and is currently a board member of ALIDA . She co-founded the Dyslexia Education Group of Central Alabama. She has been on staff at the Alabama Scottish Rite Learning Centers, providing dyslexia evaluations and intervention planning. She specializes in dyslexia and has special interests in teaching learning strategies that apply across the curriculum and across the lifespan, considering the whole child, improving unintelligible speech, and improving social skills in her students.

Dorothy H. Strong has taught for 33 years. She is currently the Multisensory Resource Specialist for Madison County Schools. She has been a Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) for several years and works closely with teachers throughout Madison County as they create positive learning environments for students with dyslexia. She has been a general education teacher and a special education teacher in both resource and collaborative settings. Teachers across Madison County have access to her wealth of information and creative ideas regarding the challenges of dyslexia and strategies to rise to those challenges.

Denise P. Gibbs taught for more than 25 years as a professor in Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Montevallo before becoming the Director of the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation Learning Centers. Dr. Gibbs is the author of *RTI for Early Readers: Implementing Common Core Standards in Your K-5 RTI Model* published by LRP in 2011; *RTI for Middle and High School: Strategies and Structures for Literacy Success* published by LRP in 2008; and *Leading the Dyslexia Challenge: An Action Plan for Schoolwide Identification and Intervention* published by LRP in 2004. Dr. Gibbs has been appointed by the Alabama State Board of Education to the Dyslexia Advisory Council and had worked with leaders at the Alabama Department of Education in the development of the *Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide*. Through the philanthropy of the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation, Dr. Gibbs provides professional development in the areas of dyslexia and RTI at no cost to Alabama schools.