

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

(submitted by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month: a time to increase understanding, celebrate the strengths of people with dyslexia, and remind families that no child should have to struggle with reading alone.

For me, dyslexia is much more than a cause. It is the neural signature of my family. As the mom of two dyslexic teenage girls, I have watched them work harder than many of their peers to accomplish things that others may take for granted. I have seen the frustration, the determination, the small victories, and the incredible pride that comes with discovering, "I can do this." I've also learned that dyslexia is not a reflection of intelligence or potential. It is a language-based learning difference, and children with dyslexia deserve instruction that recognizes and honors how their brains learn best.

My connection to dyslexia goes back even further. Long before my own children were diagnosed, dyslexia was already part of my family story because of my mother, who was diagnosed in her 50s. Now, as both a daughter and a mother, I have had the privilege of seeing dyslexia across generations, and that perspective has made me especially passionate about ensuring that children today have access to the understanding and support they need.

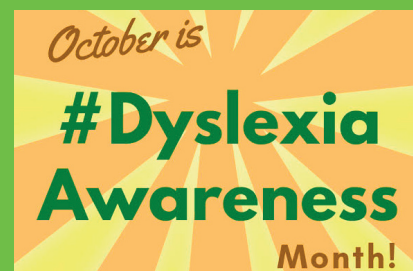


The history of dyslexia awareness is itself a story of persistence. The International Dyslexia Association traces its roots to the pioneering work of Dr. Samuel Orton and the formation of the Orton Society in 1949. Over the decades, researchers, educators, parents, and advocates worked to better understand dyslexia and to promote effective approaches to reading instruction. October has become an important annual opportunity to continue that work by raising awareness and sharing information and resources with families.

At Literacy Nassau, that mission is at the heart of what we do. Through our tutoring program, we provide children with dyslexia and other reading challenges access to specialized, individualized instruction, often for the cost of just a donation.

For parents navigating a dyslexia diagnosis, I want you to know this: You are not alone. Your child is not lazy, incapable, or "just not trying hard enough." They may simply need a different path to literacy. This Dyslexia Awareness Month, I am grateful to be part of a community that understands that difference matters, and that with the right support, our children can thrive.

Because dyslexia is personal to me. And helping children find their path to reading is personal, too.



As we celebrate Dyslexia Awareness this October, we have some prizes for our students!

After each tutoring session, OG students can spin the wheel to determine what prize they will receive. A spin after every lesson means that students will get up to three prizes a week depending on how many sessions they have each week.

That's a lot of celebrating! The wheel will only be available during the month of October. So if you have to complete any make-up sessions, be sure to schedule them before the month ends. But don't worry, we have more fun planned for November.



**The Literacy
Nassau office
will be closed
on Monday,
October 12.**

Sat., October 17:
Clinical Level OG
training
Sat., October 25:
Associate Level OG
Training

OG CLINICAL TRAINING COHORT

(submitted by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

This fall, I'm excited to embark on a new Clinical-level Orton-Gillingham training and practicum at Literacy Nassau. Clinical practitioners of the OGA can work with students who have complex profiles, as well as higher level students. I am pleased to introduce these new trainees.

MEET SHAMIKA

I am a Special Education Teacher with ten years of experience working with students with diverse learning needs. Over the past several years, my work has become increasingly focused on students with dyslexia and those who struggle with reading. I am an Orton-Gillingham Academy Associate, and my experience using the approach has strengthened my commitment to structured, diagnostic, and prescriptive instruction.



After completing my Associate-level Orton-Gillingham training and applying the approach in my work with students, I am now beginning Clinical-level training through the Orton-Gillingham Academy. I'm excited to deepen my understanding of the approach and continue developing the diagnostic and prescriptive aspects of my teaching.

As I begin Clinical-level training, I look forward to sharpening my ability to analyze student performance, make thoughtful instructional decisions, and provide individualized and responsive instruction based on each student's needs.

MEET DONNA

As the mother of a child with dyslexia, helping students become successful readers and writers is something that is very dear to my heart. I understand firsthand the challenges that students and their families face on their journey toward literacy. This experience has sparked my passion for empowering these students and helping them rebuild their confidence.



I feel incredibly fortunate to have been invited to participate in the Clinical Training Program at LN this year. My journey began in 2023, when I completed my Associate-level training and earned my OG certification. Since then, I have had the privilege of working as a part-time practitioner for this amazing organization. Over the past three years, I have worked with many students, gaining valuable experience and continually strengthening my skills as a practitioner.

Having a front-row seat to the hard work my students put into developing their literacy skills has inspired me to continue learning and growing professionally so that I can better meet their individual needs. Witnessing their growth and perseverance has been incredibly rewarding and continues to motivate me to become a better practitioner. I am excited to embark on this next chapter of my journey, where I can expand my knowledge, strengthen my clinical toolkit, and become an even more effective practitioner for the students I serve.

MEET MARY

I am a retired elementary school teacher with over 30 years of experience. Even though I enjoy retirement, I want to keep helping others build skills they need for reading success. While I had some Orton-Gillingham training at that time, I never completed a formal certification. Searching the internet brought me to Literacy Nassau where I was able to pursue my goal.



I began my Associate level training in August 2024. In 2025, I obtained OG certification. This allowed me to work with three wonderful students (elementary and middle school) during the 25-26 school year. It was such a great feeling seeing each student make progress and build confidence. After student observations and self-reflection, I decided to pursue the Clinical level so I can expand and deepen my understanding of OG.

I look forward to navigating the Clinical level training collaboratively with a cohort of fellow practitioners, as we will have the opportunity to learn together, share ideas, and discuss our experiences.

ORTON-GILLINGHAM TRAININGS

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

As a brand new Orton-Gillingham Fellow finally planning and delivering trainings on my own, I undertook two courses this summer. The first was a Classroom Educator course for general education teachers who want to have a better understanding of structured literacy and phonics and to be able to apply OG in their classroom.



The second was an Associate level course delivered to a group of teachers in a school district. While I've conducted this course before, it was a big change to make sure to pack up everything I might need and drive it all off site. My husband even bought me a big wagon to wheel out all the materials for the trainees on the first day. It was a pleasure working with this dedicated group of teachers who will begin their practicum working with students in their district this fall. This course is intended for special education teachers and reading specialists who intend to provide one on one individualized instruction for students with dyslexia or other learning disabilities. I will be at their schools for five additional days of training this year.

I am also looking forward to my final training of this school year: a virtual Associate level training that will run on Monday evenings beginning in October. I spent a lot of planning time over the summer modifying my usual activities to fit a virtual format and I am excited to see how that works out. This is an opportunity to offer OG training to a wider group of teachers as the virtual format allows anyone to join.