

**M e m o r a n d u m**

**TO:** Members of the Interim Committee on Dyslexia and Related Disorders

**FROM:** Alice Womack Marsel, MA, CALT-QI, Director of Education  
Jessica Smith, CALT, Director of Outreach and Development

**DATE:** April 28, 2010

**RE:** Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin, Inc.

Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin, Inc. (SRLC) has been serving Central Texans with dyslexia since 1989. The center provides afterschool dyslexia therapy classes for students who would not otherwise be able to obtain this help. SRLC offers the only International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) accredited training course in Central Texas.

Seeing a program in action can move concepts from the abstract to the concrete. Since we are in Austin, we would like to invite you to arrange a visit to the center to observe a student therapy class in May or a teacher training session this summer. Classes will continue through May 21, 2010. Our class offerings for the summer are attached. You may contact us at 512-472-1231 and please visit our website: [www.scottishritelearningcenter.org](http://www.scottishritelearningcenter.org) for additional information about SRLC.

## SRLC Dates & Deadlines

Don't miss any of these opportunities!

Go to [www.scottishritelearningcenter.org](http://www.scottishritelearningcenter.org) for Registration and Application Forms  
or call: (512) 472-1231

### **May 7, 2010**

An Early Literacy Intervention  
Program for Pre-Kindergartners:  
From Research to Practice  
Jewish Community  
Association of Austin Campus  
7300 Hart Lane  
9:00 am—12:00 Noon  
**Registration Deadline: April 30, 2010**

### **June 7- June 18, 2010**

Summer "FUN"damentals  
Session 1— Contact SRLC or  
check our Website for Registration and  
Application  
**Application Deadline: May 26, 2010**

### **June 14 - June 18, 2010**

Language Foundations 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Appropriate for Elementary Teachers,  
Special Education Teachers,  
and Reading Specialists  
**Registration Closed - Class Full**  
**Next Class: August 2-6, 2010**

### **June 21 - July 2, 2010**

Summer "FUN"damentals  
Session 2— Contact SRLC or  
check our Website for Registration and  
Application  
**Application Deadline: June 9, 2010**

### **July 6 - July 23, 2010**

Introductory Class of Dyslexia  
Therapist Training  
**Application Deadline: May 7, 2010**

### **July 26 - July 30, 2010**

Advanced Class of Dyslexia  
Therapist Training  
**Tuition Deadline: June 1, 2010**

### **August 2- August 13, 2010**

Summer "FUN"damentals  
Session 3—Contact SRLC or  
check our Website for Registration and  
Application  
**Application Deadline: July 21, 2010**

### **August 2- August 6, 2010**

Language Foundations 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Appropriate for Elementary Teachers,  
Special Education Teachers,  
and Reading Specialists  
**Registration Deadline: June 15, 2010**

### **August 9, 2010**

Dyslexia Therapist Retraining  
Day 5  
**Materials Fee Due: July 1, 2010**

NOTE: This is the last Dyslexia Therapist Training class that provides a teacher the opportunity to take advantage of the Texas H.B. 461 "Grandfather" clause. This clause allows a teacher to become a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist with a Bachelors degree. After November, 2012 a Masters degree will be required.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT! SRLC SAFARI NIGHT**  
**Friday, October 29, 2010 Texas Old Town 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm**

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

### San Marcos Civic Foundation Awards Grant to Scottish Rite Learning Center for Teacher Training

As Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin, Inc. (SRLC) begins its third decade, we are pleased to announce that it is launching a new program for training teachers: *Language Foundations!* House Bill 461, passed in the 2009 session of the Texas Legislature, provides for two licenses: a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist and a Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner. The passage of HB 461 presented us with a dilemma and an opportunity. Individuals interested in becoming Licensed Dyslexia Therapists will continue to be served through the center's Dyslexia Therapist Training Program. However, there are few resources available in Central Texas for teachers who would like to become Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners. We needed a program that would provide quality training necessary for the Dyslexia Practitioner License. Additionally, teachers have expressed interest in utilizing structured, multisensory techniques to teach language arts skills in the elementary classroom. *Language Foundations* will fill both these goals.

Sandy Thompson, a Qualified Instructor (QI) in Oklahoma, developed *Language Foundations*, an Orton-Gillingham based, comprehensive, balanced approach to the basics of

language arts instruction in the elementary classroom. The curriculum includes: phonemic awareness, phonics, reading, and spelling. It can be used with any basal reading program. Each 40 to 45 minute lesson includes a decodable story for fluency development with comprehension questions. Teachers learn multisensory methods for teaching decoding, comprehension, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and composition

that can be integrated within existing language arts curricula as well as systematic, structured, sequential, and discovery-based instructional techniques. *Language Foundations* is well aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading and can be used for Tier 1, 2 or 3 instruction. Earlier versions of this program have been taught to classroom teachers as well as Reading Specialists and Special Education teachers in Oklahoma City and elsewhere for 10 years. *Language Foundations*, with extended training, meets the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) guidelines for the teaching level of dyslexia training, as well as Texas' Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner level.



Alice Marsel, MA, CALT, QI  
Director of Education

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