

Dr. Orna Ariel Lenchner
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Language and learning disabilities specialist with extensive experience in assessment of cognitive, linguistic and academic skills emphasizing language based learning disabilities. Experienced remedial instructor with a specialty in moderate to severe English and Hebrew reading disabilities in children and adults. Dynamic teacher trainer and innovative curriculum developer in the areas of early literacy, phonological awareness, reading and written language. Eclectic, highly structured, creative problem solver with a diverse cultural and linguistic background.

EDUCATION

- University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, Ph.D., Special Education, 1987
Dissertation Topic: Metaphonological Skills of Good Decoders and Learning Disabled Poor Decoders
- Training seminars in Dr. Feuerstein's Learning Potential Assessment Device and Instrumental Enrichment, 1980-1987
- California State University, Northridge, M.A., Reading and Learning Disorders, 1979
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, B.A., English Literature and History of Theatre, 1975

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Learning Disabilities Consultant
Private Practice in Piedmont

2001 –

- Perform evaluations of linguistic, reading and written language skills, information processing skills and produce written report of findings which delineates specific recommendations for intervention.
- Provide remedial instruction in the areas of oral language, reading, and writing to children with learning differences
- Originate ***Bridging the Gap***, a summer program for graduating kindergarteners at risk for developing reading difficulties
- Design curriculum for small group kindergarten and first grade intervention drawing from *Reading Revolution*™, *Lindamood Bell*™, *Sound Wizard* © and the *Sounds Abound Program* ©

English/Hebrew Learning Specialist,
Tehiyah Day School, El Cerrito, CA

1999-2005

- Conduct classroom and individual educational screenings
- Produce summaries of assessment and provide recommendations for classroom and individual intervention
- Provide direct instruction in the areas of phonological awareness, English and Hebrew reading to children with learning differences
- Provide teacher training in the areas of phonological awareness, phonics and spelling
- Participate in parent and teacher conferences

- Consultant for Literacy Training**, CORE, Emeryville CA 1997-1999
- Conduct literacy training seminars for K-3 teachers
 - Develop phonological awareness training module, decoding and phonological awareness assessment tools
- Diagnostician, Remedial Instructor and Teacher Trainer**,
Stern Center for Language and Learning , Williston, VT 1989-1996
- Perform comprehensive evaluations of cognitive, linguistic, academic, information processing and social skills and produce written reports of findings which identified the handicapping condition and delineate specific recommendations for intervention
 - Provide direct instruction in the areas of oral language, reading, writing and math to children and adults with language/learning deficits
 - Teach university courses on phonological awareness and phonics
- Adjunct Professor** 1998-1999
University of California, Berkeley Extension and Holy Names College
- Course: Phonological Awareness for the Classroom Teacher
 - Course: Diagnostic Testing for Educational Therapists
- Post Doctoral Research Fellow** 1987-1989
Mailman Center for Child Development, University of Miami
- Participate in multi-disciplinary assessment team as learning disabilities specialist
 - Conduct collaborative research with Dr. Donald Routh on phonemic deletion and other oral language skills of learning impaired children
- Teacher Trainer and Program Developer** 1983-1987
Project “Jonathan Can Read”, Los Angeles, CA
- Provide Hebrew language training to Hebrew school teachers
 - Develop Hebrew reading diagnostic instruments
 - Establish and supervise remedial Hebrew programs in supplementary and day schools
 - Design and supervise pilot studies for *Time to Read Hebrew* curriculum
- Research Assistant, Special Education Department** 1980-1983
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
- Prepared scripts for multi media in-service for vocational special educators
 - Prepared training manuals for Pupil Study Teams
 - Reviewed research on the prevalence of learning disabilities among juvenile delinquents

PUBLICATIONS

Lenchner, O. (2003) *Sound Wizard: Strategy Building Games for Phonological Awareness*. Thinking Publications.

Lenchner, A. (2002) *Will my Child Be Ready for First Grade?* The GRAM

Lenchner, O. & Podhajski, B. (1998) *The Sounds Abound Program: Teaching Phonological Awareness in the Classroom*, LinguSystems.

Lenchner, O, Gerber, M. & Routh, D. (1990) *Phonological awareness tasks as predictors of decoding ability: Beyond segmentation*. Journal of Learning Disabilities, 23 (4) 240-247.

Lenchner, O. (1989) *Z'man Likro: Time to Read Hebrew*. A.R.E. Publications. Denver, Colorado (Textbook, teacher's guide and teacher training videotape).

Lenchner, O. & Dori, R. (1983) *Why Jonathan Can't Read* (Part I & II). Compass, Spring and summer issues.

Gerber, M. Cosden, M. & Lenchner, O. (1983). *Pupil Study Team Manual*. Project PASE (Policy Analysis in Special Education), funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- *Engaging and Enchanting the Language Challenged Hebrew Student* (Conference for the Advancement of Jewish Education 2005)
- *Children Can Become Sound Wizards: Phonological Awareness Games and Activities* (Stern Center for Language and Learning, 2002)
- *Sound It - Sing It! Songs to Promote Phonological Awareness* (California Kindergarten Association, 1998; National Association for Education of Young Children , 1997)
- *Can I Play That Again? Sound Wizard Phonological Awareness Games* (California Reading Association, 1999, 2000)
- *Preventing Reading Failure: Phonological Awareness Training in the Classroom* (Orton Dyslexia Society, 1993; Joint Learning Disabilities Association, 1993, 1995)
- *Why Jonathan Can't Read* (Conference for the Advancement of Jewish Education 1980-1998)
- *Assessment and Training of Cognitive Skills: Feuerstein's Learning Potential Assessment Device and Instrumental Enrichment* (Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, 1982)
- *Feuerstein's Approach to Dynamic Assessment*, (Florida Diagnostic Services, 1987)