

Martha Kovack, MEd, OCT

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Introduction

Martha Kovack, MEd, OCT is a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers and is a certified Orton-Gillingham and Practical Linguistics Teacher with the Canadian Dyslexia Society. She has taught English Language Arts Methods (K-4) to preservice teachers at Brandon University (Manitoba), and has been teaching early childhood education students at Georgian College (Ontario) since 2018. For sixteen years, Martha was an Early Literacy Specialist with the Ontario Early Years system. Through her private practice, Martha also provides structured literacy tutoring and training for K-3 teachers and administrators to help bring evidence-based, reliable, and valid research about beginning reading instruction into practice. She is the creator of www.LetsGetReadingRight.com.

Education

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER

- Master of Education in Early Childhood Education
- Final Capstone e-Portfolio: <https://marthakovack.wixsite.com/easingtheflow>
- Final average: 92%

BROCK UNIVERSITY, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

- Bachelor of Arts, Child Studies, with Distinction
- Dean's Honours List – 80% average in senior-level courses

BROCK UNIVERSITY, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

- Bachelor of Education (Primary/Junior Qualifications)

Work Experience

BRANDON UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, BRANDON MANITOBA

Sessional Instructor for English Language Arts Methods (Early Years - K-4) Fall 2020

- Wrote English Language Arts Methods (Early Years) course content
- Prepared and facilitated lectures via distance learning using Zoom platform
- Completed grade books and learning assessments in a timely manner
- Created a sense of belonging and engagement making synchronous classes more personal
- Inspired, motivated and challenged students to strive for academic excellence and integrity

GEORGIAN COLLEGE, BARRIE ON (3.5 years)

Sessional Instructor for Language Arts and Student Monitor, Jan 2018 – present

- Prepares Language Arts course content for Early Childhood Education program
- Facilitates weekly interactive online classes and group discussions using WebEx/Zoom platforms
- Completes grade books, learning assessments, and exams on a timely basis
- Demonstrates a passion for teaching and engaging students in the learning process by providing individual attention to each student (**Faculty Evaluations available upon request**)
- Created interactive *Preschool Language and Literacy Matters* website for students: <https://marthakovack.wixsite.com/preschoolliteracy>
- Completed “Foundations” Post-Secondary Teaching and LOTTR (Learning to Teach Online Remotely: <https://www.georgiancollege.ca/ctlae/faculty-professional-development/multi-part-series-descriptions/#foundations-series-description>)

ONTARIO EARLY YEARS - E3 COMMUNITY SERVICES, COLLINGWOOD, ON

Early Literacy Specialist, Jan 2002 – March 2018 (16.3 years)

- Developed and implemented more than 4000 hours of early literacy training through play-based workshops, programs, and site visits to help over 20 000 early years educators and families
- Implemented evidence-informed literacy activities within schools, childcare centres, resource teacher programs, Ontario Early ON Centres, Community Action Program for Children sites, college classes, libraries, adult learning centres, and health care programs
- Created and facilitated the **Early Literacy Leaders Initiative (ELLI)** (see <http://marthakovack.wixsite.com/elli>), an innovative “professional learning community that comes together over time with shared interests and passions to engage in the process of collective and collaborative learning” (2013, Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research, p. 18)
- Designed, developed, and produced a series of free well-loved and respected early learning video clips, booklets, language and literacy provocation play bins, and other resources
- Increased quality of early years professional interactions with children by offering regular consultations alongside concrete demonstrations of playful activities based on Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years
- Collaborated with the Ontario Early Years Data Analysis Coordinator to implement the Early Development Instrument (EDI), including co-facilitating training
- Co-authored the Early Literacy Specialist (ELS) Best Practice Guide for the Provincial Association of Early Literacy Specialists
- Developed relationships with community partners as a member of Simcoe County's Early Learning Professional Development Committee, the Early Intervention "Early Screening Matters" committee, the Father Involvement Initiative committee, and the Road to Reading event committee (chair), as well as the Provincial Early Literacy Specialist Best Practices Committee
- Consulted with shareholders throughout Simcoe County to be a central resource to link people, early learning information, and resources

SOUND READERS, BARRIE, ONTARIO

Private Practice, Jan 1997 – Present (24 years)

- Hired by schools, teacher federations, literacy organizations, libraries, and early years programs to develop and facilitate early literacy programs and professional development.
- Designed and facilitated play-based early & family language/literacy training for teachers and parents to assist them in implementing evidence-informed approaches to learning to read
- Interviewed, trained and coached volunteer teachers and parents with the Scottish Rite Learning Centres for Children to assist them in tutoring children who struggle with learning to read
- Created, produced, and distributed early literacy games (*Crazy Cards* card games) and other resources for families and teachers to help them implement evidence-based activities to improve reading achievement (*Crazy Cards* card games have been praised internationally for over 20 years)
- Formally assessed and tutored students privately (K-6) using Orton-Gillingham/Structured Literacy approaches to reading instruction
- Currently provides online training in structured literacy approaches for teachers and administrators
- Created website for teachers to support equal and efficient access to print: <https://www.letsgetreadingright.com/>
- Consults regularly with psychologists, reading specialists, speech and language pathologists, and leaders within reading organizations and universities to share early literacy information and knowledge, and to discuss ideas for research into practice

SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, SIMCOE COUNTY, ONTARIO

Primary School Teacher, Sep 1990 – Sep 1995

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, MIDHURST, ONTARIO

Primary School Teacher, Sep 1997 – Jun 1999

Qualifications Summary

- Certified Member in Good Standing with the Ontario College of Teachers (1990-present)
- Mental Health First Aid Certification with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (2018)
- Hanen Program Certified Trainer: Learning Language and Loving It - Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood Settings (2013-2016)
- Certified Practical Linguistics Teacher (Specialist: Orton-Gillingham/Multisensory Language), Canadian Dyslexia Society (2014-present)
- Certified Tutor and Senior Mentor with the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada Learning Centres for Children (2014-2017)

Recent Training

- Recent Advances in Understanding Word-Level Reading Problems: Delving Deeper into Assessment and Intervention full day webinar with Dr. David Kilpatrick (May 18, 2021)
- Sounds-Write Symposium 2021 online conference (May 23-28, 2021)
- Amplify Science of Reading Virtual Symposium 2021 (March 4, 2021)
- Voyager Sopris Learning 2020 Literacy Symposium online conference (June 18, 2020)
- The Reading Teachers Top Ten Tools Course (Summer, 2020)
- LOTTR (Learning Online to Teach Remotely) series training at Georgian College, Barrie ON (2020)
- Mental Health First Aid Certification
Mental Health Commission of Canada (2 days) (May 2018) Georgian College, Barrie ON
- *Foundations* Post-Secondary Teaching Series
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Georgian College (2018) Georgian College, Barrie ON
- Supporting International Students
Centre for Teaching and Learning, Georgian College (May 2018) Georgian College, Barrie ON
- Make the Connection (0-1 and 1-2) Group Leader Training
(The Psychology Foundation of Canada) (3 days) (June 2017) Toronto ON
- Infant Mental Health Promotion 6th National Institute - Expanding Horizons for the Early Years
(12 hours) (April 27/28, 2017) Toronto ON
- Kids Have Stress Too! PreK/Kindergarten Program (6 hours) Psychology Foundation of Canada (May 2016)
- The International Dyslexia Association Annual Conference (8 hours) Toronto ON (March 2016)
- Infant Mental Health Community Training Institute (35 hours)
- Infant Mental Health Promotion, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto (2015)
- Speech Services Niagara Conferences (11 years, Fall 2003 - 2014)
- We're Stronger Together Early Learning Conferences (Spring, 2012-2017)
- Connecting Language and Mental Health in the Early Years conference with Dr. Chaya Kulkarni, Peterborough ON (May 2014)
- Embracing the Early Years Conference, Burlington, ON (Nov/2013)
- Learning Language and Loving It (Hanen.org) training, Toronto ON (December, 2013)
- Completion of theory and techniques of the Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing® (LiPS®) Program (2012)
- Advanced Morphology with Ron Yoshimoto, M.Ed., M.S.W., F/AOGP, Director of Teacher Training, Department of Education, Hawaii, USA (linguistic analysis of morphologically complex vocabulary, and the application and extension of morphology curriculum) (2012)
- Working Memory, Learning, and Language with Dr. Lisa Archibald, Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western University, London, ON (understanding memory and language systems in children and how they impact learning) (2012)

Membership

- Ontario College of Teachers
- The Reading League
- International Dyslexia Association

Professional Certification

- Member in Good Standing with the Ontario College of Teachers
- Certified Practical Linguistics Teacher (Specialist: Orton-Gillingham/Multisensory Language), Canadian Dyslexia Society (2014-present)

Professional Experience

- Brandon University Faculty of Education Sessional Instructor for Preservice Teachers (Manitoba) (Fall/2020)
- Georgian College Sessional Instructor for the Early Childhood Education program (Barrie/Orillia, ON) (January 2018-present)
- Georgian College Student Monitor for the Early Childhood Education Program (Barrie/Orillia, ON) (January 2018 - present)
- Springwater Libraries (Ontario) staff training (May 31, 2021)
- *Games for Orthographic Mapping* for 86 Simcoe County Elementary Teachers Federation (Apr. 29, 2021)
- *Orton-Gillingham/Structured Literacy* Courses for teachers and administrators with *Sound Readers* (private practice). Ongoing facilitation of introductory 8-hour intensive courses in Orton-Gillingham and structured literacy approaches to learning to read (2018-present)
- *Games for Orthographic Mapping* workshop for 90 educators at the LATA BC (Learning Assistance Teachers) Annual Virtual Conference 2020 (October, 2020)
- Simcoe County Ontario Early Years Early Literacy Specialist
More than 4 000 workshops for over 20 000 teachers, early learning practitioners, parents (January, 2002 –2018)
- Chatham-Kent Child Care and Early Years
What is your Superpower? Early Literacy Workshops for educators (October 4, 5, 2019)
- Sevenoaks Academy Private School
Introduction to Orton-Gillingham Approaches for teachers
January 2019 (Barrie, ON)
- Gan Nitzanim Child Care Centre
Getting Literacy into Play workshop for childcare practitioners
November 2017 (Thornhill, ON)
- Kitiganik Elementary School, Rapid Lake, Quebec
Multisensory Structured Language workshop for 14 teachers (August 2016)
Rapid Lake, Quebec

- Durham Catholic DECE Local
Multisensory Structured Language workshop for 30 DECEs
May 2016 (Oshawa ON)
- Umbrella Child Care School Age Conference
Getting Literacy Into Play workshop for Early Childhood Practitioners
(November 2015) Scarborough ON
- Lambton County Sowing the Seeds for Literacy Conference
Keynote Speaker for 200 kindergarten teachers, early learning professionals, librarians, and speech-language pathologists
Getting Literacy into Play: Making Every Moment Count
Lambton College, Sarnia ON
(February, 2015)
- e.p.i.c. School Professional Development Days
Keynote Speaker for all staff *Phonemic Awareness Training*
(February, 2015) (September 2015) Toronto ON
- Communicative Disorders Association of Canada (CDAAC)
Keynote Speaker for Communicative Disorders Assistants at their annual conference *Chit Chat with Children - Encouraging Personal Narrative*
Toronto ON
(November, 2014)
- Grand Erie District School Board, and Brant County Ontario Early Years
Keynote Speaker for 60 Kindergarten teachers and early learning professionals
Phonological Awareness and Alphabet Play
Brantford ON
(November 2013) (November 2014)
- Durham Region Spring Into Literacy Conference
Keynote Speaker for 150 kindergarten teachers, early learning educators, librarians, speech-language pathologists
Getting Literacy into Play: Making Every Moment Count
Whitby, ON (March, 2014)
- Claremont School Conferences, Toronto ON
Phonemic Awareness Workshops
100 Teachers and Parents
(February 2013) (February 2014)
- Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School, Maniwaki, Quebec
Full-day workshop for 15 K-5 teachers:
(August, 2010)
- LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) Half-day workshop for 12 early learning practitioners, Mississauga, ON
(December 2009)
- LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada)
Full-day workshop for 25 early learning practitioners, Brampton, ON
(December 2010)
- For the Love of Literacy Conference, Halton District School Board
Workshops for 140 K-3 teachers (April, 2006) (April, 2009)
Burlington ON

- The 59th Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia Assn, Seattle Washington
From Struggling Readers to Sound Readers workshop
30 primary school teachers and tutors
Washington State Convention Center
(October, 2008)
- Maryborough Public School, Moorefield, ON
Workshop for 25 kindergarten parents and teachers:
(June, 2008)
- Monsignor Michael O'Leary Elementary School, Bracebridge, ON
Workshop for 30 primary/junior parents
(June 5, 2008)
- On the Same Page Early Literacy Conference, Geneva Park Conference Centre
Simcoe County Workshop for 65 early learning practitioners
(May, 2008)
- 2008 Annual LINC/TESL Hamilton Wentworth Spring Conference
Workshop for 25 English language learner teachers
(February 29, 2008)
- Hamilton Wentworth Kindergarten Teacher's Association
Workshop for 40 kindergarten teachers
(November 2007)
- Moose Cree Education Authority, Moose Factory Island, ON
Keynote Speaker for 15 early learning practitioners (January, 2007)
- Oxford County Early Literacy Conference, Woodstock, ON
Keynote Speaker for 120 early learning practitioners (November 2006)
- Markdale Ontario Early Years Centres, Markdale, ON
Workshops for 30 Early Learning Practitioners (April 2006)
- Chatham-Kent Ontario Early Years Centres, Chatham, ON
Keynote Speaker for 80 Early Learning Practitioners (May 2005)
- The Toronto Public Library
Keynote Speaker for 150 Reading and Homework Help Tutors (November 1999) (February, 2005)
- Muskoka Family Focus Conference, Gravenhurst, ON
Keynote Speaker for 40 Early Learning Practitioners (February 2005)
- Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, Ancaster, ON
Workshop for 60 K-3 teachers: (October 2003)
- York University, Toronto ON
Guest lecturer for 60 teacher candidate & psychology students
(February 2000) (October, 2001)
- George R Allen Elementary School, Hamilton ON
Workshop for 40 K-3 teachers (October 2001)
- St. Bernadette's Catholic Elementary School, York Catholic DSB
Workshop for 20 K-3 teachers (January 2001)

- Simcoe County Children's Aid Society, Barrie ON
Workshops for 80 foster parents (October 2000) (October 2001)
- Curriculum '98, '99', '03 Conferences, Collingwood ON
Workshops for 200 K-3 teachers (April 1998, 1999, 2003)
- Andrew Hunter School/Baxter Elementary School, Barrie/Baxter ON
Implemented peer tutoring program with 500 Students in 27 classes
(November 1999, 2000)
- Simcoe County District School Board, Midhurst ON
18 workshops for 700 K-3 teachers (March – May 1999)
- Simcoe County District School Board, Midhurst, ON
60 workshops for 750 parents at 30 different schools: Alliston, Barrie, Beeton, Bradford, Collingwood, Creemore, Innisfil, Midland, Orillia, Stayner, Tottenham, Wasaga Beach
(January 1998–December 2001)
- Georgian Literacy Collingwood, ON
4 Workshops for 80 adult tutors (October 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001)
- Frontier College Reading Circle Conference, Toronto ON
Workshop for 80 Reading Circle facilitators: (May 1999, April, 2000)