



# *Reader Today, Leader Tomorrow*

*The 1st Annual Symposium  
on Learning Differences*

*Dubai Health Authority  
Accreditation CME 5 Points*

*Accreditation # 0616/10  
25th-Sep-2010*



**READER TODAY  
LEADER TOMORROW**

*Event Organizers*



Visit our website: [www.lexiconreadingcenter.org](http://www.lexiconreadingcenter.org)  
Call us on: **0971507954428**

# Overview

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There is a wind of change blowing through the educational sector. Many lofty and worthy ideas are being postulated about teaching all kind of children in the same mainstream classroom. **But:**

- How do I as a **teacher** cope with the reality of teaching children with various learning difficulties in my classroom?
- How do I as a **parent** of a child with a learning difficulty support my child to succeed at school?
- How do I as a **principal** manage the increasing expectations of educational policy, teachers and parents within the reality of my limited resources?
- How do I as a **professional** play an active role in integrating children I work with into mainstream classes?

From three different continents and diverse backgrounds of expertise and specialities, our speakers are gathering in this one day event. They are here to interact with you, address your concerns and discuss with you the solutions by bringing several case studies and best practices of people had experienced similar situations like yours.

## Symposium Objectives

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- Connect the knowledge of world renowned experts from the UK, US and India with the expressed needs of the multi-cultural education environment
- Give stakeholders a voice to express the issues they face while helping and integrating children with learning difficulties
- Seek realistic solutions to address these issues
- Develop an ongoing forum where ideas, experiences and practical solutions can be shared and developed
- Build a database of available services and professionals in the region which can be used as a source of referral.

## Topics at Glance

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- **Symposium Opening**

Dr Steve Chinn: The symposium chair

- **Learning Differences: Etiology and Management**

Dr Constance Smith, MD and PhD, Paediatric Neurology, John Hopkins, USA

# Topics at Glance

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- **Characteristics of Dyslexia:** *Examples of how dyslexia affects school performance at different ages*

**Dr Nancy Cushen White**, Ed.D, Special Educator and Associate Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of California, USA

- **Why children fail in Math?** *31 Signs of Dyscalculia*

**Dr Steve Chinn**, PhD, AMBDA, Mark College, UK

- **Remedial Intervention:** *Bridge Learning Differences*

**Lalitha Ramanujan** M.Phil, M.Psych, Director, Alpha to Omega Learning Centre, Chennai, India

- **Panel Discussion**

Moderated by **Dr Steve Chinn**, the symposium chair.

## Who Should Attend and Why?

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You must attend if you are:

### Parents

- Gain the knowledge to determine what support your child needs and how it can be provided in school and after school remediation
- Be a realistic advocate for your child based on a thorough needs assessment. This will help understand the essential support the child requires
- Working towards turning the relationship with the school from conflict to collaboration.

### Teachers

- Understanding which children can be accommodated in the classroom without additional resources
- Learn survival strategies to integrate children with learning difficulties into the mainstream classroom
- Practical ways of screening individuals with learning differences in the classroom
- Practical ways of collaborating with parents and minimizing their anxiety
- Practical strategies to cope with the sudden Influx of including children with learning difficulties such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and ADHD.

# Who Should Attend and Why?

## Principals and Policy Makers

- Minimizing the obstacles faced while transforming inclusion policy into practice by employing simple, cost-effective and efficient strategies to include children with learning difficulties within the existing framework and its constraints
- Relieving teachers' stress of coping with the integration demands by giving them survival tools to integrate children with learning difficulties in the mainstream classroom
- Dealing with parental expectations
- Understanding the support children needs, and how the school can provide that in realistic and reasonable ways
- Understanding which children the school can not support, and discuss what can be the alternatives.

## Health Care Professionals

- Update yourself with latest research and techniques of diagnosing and managing children with learning disorders
- Getting to decide how, when and to whom you can refer
- Participate in building a unified database of referral references across the region.

## University Faculty and Researchers

- Participate in an interactive forum that will present the latest research combined with real life case studies and best practices
- Enrich your practical insights on the challenges faced upon transitioning from research to practice
- Learn about the situation in reality. This will be reflected on training teachers and preparing them to have the solid foundation to build an adaptive and flexible education atmosphere.

# Speaker's Profile

**Dr Constance Smith Hicks** MD, PhD, John Hopkins, USA received her MD and PhD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She completed her internship and residency in Pediatrics at Montefiore Medical Center at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and her residency in Pediatric Neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr Smith Hicks also completed a Research Fellowship at Hopkins in the laboratory of Dr Paul Worley where she studied the role of the Immediate Early Gene Arc in the formation of neural networks that are involved in learning and memory. She is now a faculty member of the Department of Neurology, John Hopkins, USA.



**Dr Steve Chinn** PhD, AMBDA, Mark College, UK was Founder and Principal of Mark College, a specialist school for dyslexic learners, which is recognised as a Beacon school. Dr Chinn has served on the councils of the British Dyslexia Association and the Dyslexia Institute and has more than thirty five years of teaching experience. He is an internationally regarded expert trainer and lecturer in the area of Dyslexia, Mathematics and Dyscalculia and is the author of several publications, including the highly acclaimed 'The Trouble with Mathematics.' Steve set up the first Post Graduate Course for maths and dyslexia which was accredited by the British Dyslexia Association for Associate Membership (Numeracy) status.



**Nancy Cushen White** EdD, University of California, USA, is a teacher and learning disabilities specialist in the Division of Adolescent Medicine. She provides referrals and consultation for case management of adolescents with learning problems. She has worked as a classroom teacher and special education teacher for San Francisco Unified School District; she was the pilot teacher for the special day class for gifted students with specific learning disabilities (dyslexia) in the Department of Special Education- SFUSD.



**Lalitha Ramanujan** M.Phil, M.Psych, Director, Alpha to Omega Learning Centre and a Founder Trustee Sri Krishna Trust. She is a trainer and therapist in specific learning difficulties, for more than two decades. As a certified trainer for Strategies Intervention Model Kansas University and Instrumental Enrichment Programme; she conducts workshops and courses for teachers and parents. As a Director she is involved in training and management of the Centre. She has received awards for her contribution to the field, from the Rotary clubs and other social organizations. The Alpha to Omega Learning Centre was founded in 1988. Its core activities are remedial intervention on a one to one basis, full day school and training tutors.



# Speaker's Abstract

## **Learning Differences: Etiology and Management**

**Dr Constance Smith Hicks MD, PhD, John Hopkins, USA**

Learning Disability is a brain based disorder that affects the way in which one acquire, processes and stores new information for later retrieval. This disorder can have many different presentations and may result from a variety of general medical, neurologic, psychiatric or genetic conditions. Here I will present the physiological processes underlying learning and memory and the pathologic basis for disorders affecting learning and memory. I will also discuss the factors that puts one at risk for a learning disorder, common neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders that affect learning and discuss an approach to diagnosis and treatment. In addition, I will discuss some of the genetic syndromes that are associated with learning disorders and briefly touch on ongoing research and clinical trials that are being pursued.

## **Why children fail in Math? 31 Signs of Dyscalculia**

**Dr Steve Chinn PhD, AMBDA, Mark College, UK**

This session will look at 31 characteristics which are indicators of maths learning difficulties/ dyscalculia, for example, an inability to memorise all the basic multiplication facts. The session will consider relevant research, implications of each characteristic, some teaching ideas and the role of anxiety and motivation. The underlying principles and pedagogy would apply to any subject that a child with specific learning difficulties may meet. This session is aimed at anyone who has an interest in why children, and adults, fail to understand and learn maths.

## **Characteristics of Dyslexia: Examples of how dyslexia affects school performance at different ages**

**Dr Nancy Cushen White EdD, University of California, USA**

What Is Dyslexia? Are the characteristics the same regardless of age? Can dyslexia be diagnosed before children are learning to read? Are some instructional approaches more effective than others for teaching reading, spelling and written expression to people with dyslexia? Can adults with dyslexia be taught to read and write? One essential concept underlying dyslexia is unexpected underachievement, difficulty or inability to master an academic skill generally expected of others with similar aptitude and adequate opportunity to learn. Academic achievement and cognitive processing strengths and weaknesses must be considered in conjunction with the analysis of the quality and patterns of errors that occur at different ages and developmental levels. While individuals may differ in the severity and extent of their dyslexia, there are sufficient criteria to make dyslexia a clearly identifiable syndrome. Thus, it is a term useful to teachers, psychologists and others involved in education, because it calls for specific kinds of instructional approaches. Training teachers to deliver this effective instruction remains our greatest challenge.

## **Remedial Intervention to Bridge Learning Difference**

**Ms Lalitha Ramanujan M.Phil, M.Psych, Director**

Remedial teaching approaches to meet the needs of a learning disabled student can be addressed as a clinical or therapy approach. The teacher's role is to tailor the learning experiences to meet the needs of the particular Learning disabled student. The flexibility of the teacher to modify as new needs become apparent is very important. The approach needs to facilitate ways to test-teach-test process. The method should not be a rigid, one instructional system. A flexible approach, that focuses on what can the student do and what needs modification, is one that can be used in a mainstream, a resource room special education or in one-to-one tutoring. The tactics involved should be used with many different learning strategies or instructional methods.

# Pre-conference Activities

## Workshops with Dr. Nancy Cushen-White with interested groups

- Principals, Policy Makers
- Regular Teachers
- Special Needs Professionals
- Parents

### How can I participate?

Express your interest in the appropriate section of the symposium application form including group of interest and preferred times for meeting. The organisers will contact you with the time and location of the meeting.

## Visits by Dr. Nancy Cushen-White to interested schools and / or work-teams.

Dr. Nancy Cushen-White has expressed her willingness to visit a limited number of schools and other work-teams with common concerns in the days before the conference to help the school with the issues they are most concerned about. Schools and teams with ten or more symposium attendants qualify. The symposium organisers endeavour to organise as many visits as possible within the limited time Dr. Cushen-White is available.

### How can a school / work-team participate?

Express your interest in the appropriate section of the symposium application form including description of your function at the school or team, the number of participants, major areas of concern and preferred times for meeting. The organisers will endeavour contact you to discuss your needs and coordinate Dr. Cushen-White's timetable during her stay in Dubai.

## Venue Details

**Where?** Rashid Library Auditorium, Dubai UAE.

**When?** Saturday 25th Sep, 2010

## Program Cost

- **Students:** AED 400
- **Individual:** AED 650
- **Teachers:** AED 550
- **DHA Staff:** AED 250

How do I, as a teacher, cope with the reality of teaching children with various learning difficulties in my classroom?

**Teacher**

Can the subject as it is be taught to the child as he is?

How do I, as a parent of a child with a learning difference support my child to succeed at school?

**Parent**

How do I, as a principal, manage the increasing expectations of educational policy, teachers and parents within the reality of my limited resources?

**Principal**

How do I, as a professional, play an active role in integrating children I work with into mainstream classes?

**Professional**

**All your questions  
answered at**

**The 1st Annual Symposium  
on Learning Differences**

**25th-Sep-2010**



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Dubai Health Authority Accreditation CME 5 Points, Accreditation # 0616/10

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# Symposium Agenda

Time	Session
8:30 am	Registration, Breakfast and Networking
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome Address <b>Dr Steve Chinn</b> , PhD, AMBDA, Mark College, UK <i>The Symposium Chair</i>
9:15 am – 10:45 am	<b>Learning Differences: Etiology and Management</b> <b>Dr Constance Smith Hicks</b> , MD, PhD, John Hopkins, USA
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Coffee break and Networking
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Characteristics of Dyslexia: Examples of how dyslexia affects school performance at different ages</b> <b>Dr Nancy Cushen White</b> , EdD, University of California, USA
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch & Networking
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Why children fail in Math?</b> 31 Signs of Dyscalculia <b>Dr Steve Chinn</b> , PhD, AMBDA, Mark College, UK
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Coffee break & Networking
3:45 pm – 5:15 pm	<b>Remedial Intervention: Bridge Learning Differences</b> <b>Lalitha Ramanujan</b> M.Phil, M.Psych, Director, Alpha to Omega Learning Centre, Chennai, India
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Coffee break & Networking
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Panel Discussion: <b>Dr Steve Chinn</b> <b>Dr Constance Smith Hicks</b> <b>Ms Lalitha Ramanujan</b> <b>Dr Nancy Cushen White</b>
6:30 pm	End of the Program and Certificates Distribution

# REGISTER FOR

## The 1st Annual Symposium on Learning Differences

Rashid Library Auditorium, Dubai UAE- September 25, 2010

Note that you may register by email at [info@lexiconreadingcenter.org](mailto:info@lexiconreadingcenter.org)

Updates on the symposium will be available on our website: [www.lexiconreadingcenter.org/events](http://www.lexiconreadingcenter.org/events)

### REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Last(family) Name ..... First Name .....

Institution/ Affiliation .....

Mailing Address .....

.....

City ..... Country .....

Telephone # ..... Mobile # ..... Fax # .....

E-mail Address .....

### REGISTRATION FEE (AED)

Registration fees cover conference documents, lunch, coffee breaks, and the event presentation Cds. Please tick the appropriate box below and submit the corresponding fee with this form to the Lexicon Reading Center, JLT (address below).

#### KHDA Staff

- |                                     |     |                                    |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students   | 400 | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers  | 550 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | 650 | <input type="checkbox"/> DHA Staff | 250 |

### PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

I'm interested in attending **Dr. Nancy Cushen-White** meeting with the Interest Group.

(If yes underline the group)

- Yes. I'm a Parent, Teacher, Principal, Professional.       No

I'm interested to have **Dr. Nancy Cushen-White** visit our school and have meeting with the teachers.

(Minimum attendance of 10 at the symposium)

- Yes       No

### Payment via Bank Transfer

For bank transfers; please send us the registration form with a copy of the transfer receipt.

**Bank Name:** Emirates NBD  
**Bank Address:** Jebel Ali Bank Street, Dubai, UAE.  
**Swift Code:** EBILAEAD  
**Account Name:** Lexicon Reading Center JLT  
**AED Account No:** 1014068603501

Lexicon Reading Center,  
Jumeirah Lakes Tower, HDS Tower 1909

