

# Martha Kovack, MEd [marthaLkovack@gmail.com](mailto:marthaLkovack@gmail.com)

## Introduction

**Martha Kovack, MEd**, was a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers for 35 years. She completed her Orton-Gillingham, Practical Linguistics, and Structured Literacy training and certification between 2009 and 2014. Martha holds a Master of Education in Early Childhood Education and served as an Early Literacy Specialist for the Ontario Early Years system for 16 years. Her work focused on supporting early language and literacy development in children from birth to age five, and on providing resources & training for families and educators. From 2018 to 2024, she taught Language Arts at Georgian College (Ontario) and in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University (Manitoba). From 2020 to 2024, she contributed as a coach, facilitator, presenter, and volunteer with the Ontario branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

Martha currently provides professional development and coaching in structured literacy approaches for junior grade teachers at Vanguard School in Montreal. Through her private practice, she offers literacy intervention for students and “Ask Martha” sessions for educators and families—helping to bridge the gap between evidence-based reading research and classroom practice. She is also the creator of [www.LetsGetReadingRight.com](http://www.LetsGetReadingRight.com) and the founder and CEO of [www.SoundReaders.com](http://www.SoundReaders.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 Education (Primary/Junior Qualifications)
- Bachelor of Arts, Child Studies, with Distinction
- Dean's Honours List – 80% average in senior-level courses

## Work Experience

### BRANDON UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF EDUCATION, BRANDON MANITOBA

#### Sessional Instructor for English Language Arts Methods (Early Years - K-4) Fall 2020-2024

- Authored course curriculum
- Delivered distance learning lectures via Zoom
- Maintained accurate and timely assessments/records
- Fostered student engagement & belonging, making synchronous classes more personal
- Inspired, motivated and challenged students to strive for academic excellence and integrity

### ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION (August 2021- 2024)

#### Coach for IDA's Structured Literacy Course (K-8 teachers), and Creator of Spellbound Teaching Tips

- Prepared/organized meetings and provided demonstrations of structured literacy activities
- Facilitated conversations about course content and motivated teachers to try new strategies
- Created “Spellbound” video series for spelling instruction support (ONLIT/Dyslexia Canada)

### GEORGIAN COLLEGE, ORILLIA ON

#### Sessional Instructor for Language Arts Course and Student Monitor, Jan 2018 – Aug 2023 (5 years)

- Developed Language Arts curriculum for the *Early Childhood Education* program
- Taught in-person and interactive online courses using WebEx/Zoom
- Evaluated student learning through unique assessments and exams
- Completed *Foundations* Post-Secondary Teaching & LOTTR training
- Promoted play-based learning, connected theory to practice, and engaged students via paralleling practice

### PRIVATE PRACTICE (SOUND READERS®)

Literacy Interventionist/Presenter, Jan 1997 – Present (28 years)

- Hired by school boards, teacher federations, literacy organizations, libraries, indigenous communities, and early years programs to develop/facilitate science of reading and structured literacy professional development
- Designed and facilitated play-based early & family language/literacy training for teachers and families to assist them in implementing science of reading approaches to learning to read
- Created and published literacy games and instructional resources
- Provided one-to-one Orton-Gillingham and Structured Literacy intervention
- Trained and coached volunteers with the *Scottish Rite Learning Centres for Children*
- Consulted regularly with educational professionals to bridge research into practice
- Developed [Letsgetreadingright.com/](http://letsgetreadingright.com/) to support educator learning

### ONTARIO EARLY YEARS - E3 COMMUNITY SERVICES, COLLINGWOOD, ON

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

- Modelled evidence-informed oral language & literacy activities across diverse settings (schools, childcares, Ontario Early ON Centres, Indigenous programs, libraries, adult learning centres, etc.)
- Created and facilitated the **Early Literacy Leaders Initiative (ELLI)**  
(<http://marthakovack.wixsite.com/elli>)
- Produced a series of early learning videos, booklets, and language & literacy provocation play bins
- Increased quality of early years professional interactions with children by providing consultations and 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 Early Literacy Specialist (ELS) Best Practice Guide
- Held leadership roles on numerous regional and provincial committees (e.g. Early Learning PD Committees, Early Intervention "Early Screening Matters", the Father Involvement Initiative, the Road to Reading event (chair), and the Provincial Early Literacy Specialist Best Practices Committee)

### 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](#) (1990-2025)
- Certified Orton-Gillingham Teacher, with Evelyn Reiss, Fellow, Orton-Gillingham Academy, and principal of training at [Claremont School, Toronto](#) (2014)
- Certified OG Tutor, Senior Mentor, and Volunteer (Orton-Gillingham approaches) with the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada Learning Centres (2009-2017)
- Mental Health First Aid Certification with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (2018)
- Hanen Program Certified Trainer: Learning Language and Loving It (2013-2016)

## Professional Development Training (selected highlights)

- International DLD Research Conferences (2022-2024)
- IDA Ontario Literacy & Learning Conferences (2023/2024/2025)
- Right to Read Symposium, IDA (2022)
- The Reading League Annual Conference (October 2020-2022)
- David Kilpatrick Word-Level Reading Problems (2021)
- Sounds-Write Symposium (2021)
- The Big Dippers Course (2021)
- Amplify Science of Reading Symposium (2021)
- Voyager Sopris Literacy Symposium (2020)
- Top Ten Tools Course (2020) (and then coach 2020-2024)
- Georgian LOTTR and Post-Secondary Teaching Series (2018-2020)
- Infant Mental Health Programs (2013-2017)
- Supporting International Students, Georgian College (2018)
- Psychology Foundation of Canada “Make the Connection” and “Kids Have Stress Too” programs (2016-17)
- Speech Services Niagara Conferences (11 years: Fall 2003 - 2014)
- We're Stronger Together Early Learning Conferences (2012-2017)
- Connecting Language and Mental Health in the Early Years conference with Dr. Chaya Kulkarni (2014)
- Learning Language and Loving It (Hanen.org) training, Toronto ON (December, 2013)
- Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing® (LiPS®) Program (2012)
- Advanced Morphology with Ron Yoshimoto, M.Ed., M.S.W., F/AOGP (2012)
- Working Memory, Learning, and Language with Dr. Lisa Archibald, Western University (2012)

## Memberships

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

## Professional Certification

- Ontario College of Teachers (1990-2025)
- Certified Orton-Gillingham Teacher (2014)
- Certified Tutor and Senior [Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada Learning Centres for Children](#) (2014-2017)

## Professional Experience & Presentations (selected highlights)

- Vanguard School, Montréal: Structured Literacy training/coaching for junior teachers (2023 – 2026)
- Montréal Fluency Centre: Structured literacy training for Barbados teachers (2023 – 2024)
- Toronto Public Library: “How Words Work” training for *Leading to Reading* volunteers (2024-2025)
- ONLIT (Ontario Ministry of Education)/Dyslexia Canada: “Spellbound” videos (2024)
- IDA Ontario: webinar and conference presenter, structured literacy course facilitator (2021-2024)
- Sound Readers Private Practice: Ongoing facilitation of literacy courses/presentations (1997-present)
- Elementary Teachers Federations (ETFO/DECE): Structured Literacy workshops (2021-2023)
- Ontario School Boards (Niagara, Bluewater, Toronto, Wellington, Waterloo, etc.): Science of Reading and Structured Literacy Presenter (2020-2024)
- Georgian College & Brandon University: Sessional Instructor in Language Arts (2018-2024)
- Ontario Early Years/Community Organizations: Over 4000 workshops for 20000+ participants (2002-18)
- Numerous keynote and workshop presentations: Conferences across Ontario & beyond (details below)

## Detailed Descriptions

- **Bluewater District School Board:** Developing Language Comprehension -10 Key Strategies (August, 2023)
- **Centre for Diverse Learners:** Solutions for Learning Conference - Alongside Decoding: 10 Key Strategies to Support Comprehension (Mar. 2023)
- **Niagara Catholic District School Board:** The Science of Reading and Effective Reading Instruction presentation for 300 junior/intermediate/special ed, etc. teachers (October 2022)
- **Toronto Catholic District School Board:** Kindergarten workshop for 60 DECEs (September 2022)
- **Toronto Catholic District School Board:** Introduction to Structured Literacy 8-hour Course for Consultants (Spring 2022)
- **Wellington Catholic School Board:** Introduction to Structured Literacy course for consultants (Spring 2022)
- **Ontario International Dyslexia Association:** Coach for Structured Literacy Courses (2021/22; 2022/23)
- **Brandon University:** English Language Arts Methods Sessional Instructor at Faculty of Education (Manitoba) (2020-2022)
- **Georgian College:** English Language Arts Lead Sessional Instructor for the Early Childhood Education program (Barrie/Orillia, ON) (January 2018-present)
- **Ottawa Elementary Teachers Federation:** Structured Literacy workshop for 500 members (Feb. 2022) (97% of evaluations were 5/5 - available upon request)
- **Georgian College:** Student Monitor for the Early Childhood Education Program (Barrie/Orillia, ON) (Jan 2018 - 2020)
- **Springwater Libraries (Ontario):** staff training in structured literacy (Spring, 2021, Fall, 2022)
- **Simcoe County Elementary Teachers Federation:** Structured Literacy/Science of Reading workshops (Apr/Aug/Nov 2021)
- **Waterloo District Elementary Teachers Federation:** Structured Literacy/Science of Reading workshop for 500 DECE and K teachers at the (November 2021)
- **LATA BC (Learning Assistance Teachers):** Structured Literacy/Science of Reading workshop for 90 educators at the Annual Virtual Conference 2020 (October 2020)
- **Simcoe County Ontario Early Years:** Early Literacy Specialist - over **4 000 workshops for over 20 000 teachers, early learning practitioners, families** (January 2002 –March 2018)
- **Chatham-Kent Child Care and Early Years:** What is your Superpower? Early Literacy Workshops for early childhood educators (October 4/5, 2019)
- **Sevenoaks Academy Private School (Barrie ON):** Introduction to Orton-Gillingham Approaches for teachers (Jan 2019)
- **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 - 14 teachers (Aug 2016)
- **Durham Catholic District School Board 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 (February, 2015) Lambton College, Sarnia ON
- **E.P.I.C. Private School Professional Development days** - Keynote Speaker for all staff Phonemic Awareness Training (February, 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 (November, 2014) Toronto, ON
- **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 Pla Brantford ON, (November 2013 & 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 (Mar. 2014)
- **Claremont Private School Conferences, Toronto** Phonemic Awareness Workshops, 100 Teachers/Parents (2013/2014)
- **Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School, Maniwaki, Quebec** Full-day workshop for 15 K-5 teachers (August 2010)
- **LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada)** Full-day workshop for ECEs, Brampton, ON (December 2010)
- **LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada)** ½ day workshop for ECEs, Mississauga, ON (December 2009)
- **Halton District School Board:** *For the Love of Literacy* Conference 140 K-3 teachers (April 2006/2009) Burlington ON

- **International Dyslexia Association's 59th Annual Conference: Seattle, Washington** 30 primary school teachers and tutors, Washington State Convention Center (October 2008)
- **Maryborough Public School** (Moorefield, ON): Workshop for 25 kindergarten parents/teachers (June 2008)
- **Monsignor Michael O'Leary Elementary School** (Bracebridge, ON): Workshop for 30 primary/junior parents (June 2008)
- **Simcoe County Early Literacy Conference**, Geneva Park Conference Centre Workshop for 65 ECEs (May, 2008)
- **Hamilton Wentworth 2008 Annual LINC/TESL Spring Conference** for English Language Learner teachers (Feb. 2008)
- **Hamilton Wentworth Kindergarten Teachers Association**: Workshop for 40 K teachers (November 2007)
- **Moose Cree Education Authority, Moose Factory Island, ON**: Keynote Speaker for ECE teachers (January 2007)
- **Oxford County Early Literacy Conference**, Woodstock, ON: Keynote Speaker for 120 early learning teachers (Nov. 2006)
- **Markdale Ontario Early Years Centres**, Markdale, ON: 30 Early Learning Practitioners (Apr./06)
- **Chatham-Kent Ontario Early Years Centres**, Chatham, ON: Keynote Speaker for 80 Early Learning teachers (May 2005)
- **Toronto Public Library**: Keynote Speaker for 150 Reading and Homework Help Tutors (November 1999) (February, 2005)
- **Muskoka Family Focus Conference**: Keynote Speaker for 40 Early Learning Practitioners (February 2005) Gravenhurst, ON
- **Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools**: Workshop for 60 K-3 teachers: (October 2003) Ancaster, ON
- **York University**: Toronto ON: Guest lecturer for 60 teacher candidate & psychology students (Feb. 2000; Oct. 2001)
- **George R Allen Elementary School**: Hamilton ON: Workshop for 40 K-3 teachers (October 2001)
- **York Catholic DSB**: St. Bernadette's Catholic Elementary School, 20 K-3 teachers (January 2001)
- **Simcoe County Children's Aid Society**: Barrie ON: 80 foster parents (October 2000) (October 2001)
- **Simcoe County District School Board**: Curriculum '98, '99', '03 Conferences, Collingwood ON Workshops for 200 K-3 teachers (April 1998, 1999, 2003)
- **Simcoe County District School Board**: Midhurst ON - **18 Phonemic Awareness 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)
- **Frontier College**: Reading Circle Conference, Workshop for 80 Reading Circle facilitators (May 1999; April, 2000) Toronto
- **Andrew Hunter School/Baxter Elementary Schools**: Barrie/Baxter ON - Implemented peer tutoring program with 500 Students in 27 classes (November 1999, 2000)
- **Georgian Literacy**: Collingwood, ON - 4 Workshops for 80 adult tutors (October 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001)