



Learning Assistance Teachers' Association

a Provincial Specialist Association of the BCTF

Upcoming Events

Note: The following data are provided for information only.
LATA does not endorse or support any of the following:
** Hyperlinks active

NEWS & FEATURES

EVENTS
PAGE 1

Ontario
Right to Read
PAGE 2

Mental Health
Month
PAGE 3

Teachers supporting
mental health
PAGE 4

Mental Health
Book Suggestions
PAGE 5

Free Decodables
PAGE 6

Dyslexia Resources
PAGE 7

BCTF Resources
PAGE 8

Associations Links
PAGE 9

Member Question
PAGE 10

Free Resources
PAGE 11

LATA Goals
PAGE 12

Editor:

Michelle Redman

PaTTAN 3-day Symposium- FREE!!

June 14 - 16, 2022

<https://www.pattan.net/Training/Conferences/2022-PaTTAN-Literacy-Symposium?fbclid=IwAR0y-0n0KzIFyZz9AMKM9IOD8wFy3Ur5HJHC9XRMIISZGDgIMDzcRODqsmU>

POPFASD in-school presentations

<https://www.fasdoutreach.ca/training>

Joyful Stories of Structured Word Inquiry **various dates**

Peter Bowers SWI

Check the LATA PSA53 Facebook page

On-demand learning from POPARD

<https://autismoutreach.ca/on-demand-modules/>

POPARD training sessions and series

<https://autismoutreach.ca/upcoming-training-dates/>

CANCHILD Webinars (McMaster University)

<https://canchild.ca/en/research-in-practice/f-words-in-childhood-disability/webinars>

International Dyslexia Association:

<https://dyslexiaida.org/webinars/>

ACT: Autism Community Training

<https://www.actcommunity.ca/>

Experience Dyslexia - IDA

<https://norcal.dyslexiaida.org/experience-dyslexia/>

Florida Center for Reading Research

<https://www.fcrr.org/>

Reading Simplified: How to Start with the Science of Reading

<https://readingsimplified.com/science-of-reading-foundational/>

Reading 101 (free):

<https://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101-course/modules/course-modules>



Ontario Human Rights Inquiry

The Right to Read

February 28, 2022

TORONTO – Today the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its Right to Read inquiry report on human rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities, calling for critical changes to Ontario's approach to early reading, in areas such as curriculum and instruction, screening, reading interventions, accommodations and professional assessments. The inquiry found that by not using evidence-based approaches to teach students to read, Ontario's public education system is failing students with reading disabilities such as dyslexia, and other students.

"Students are not just being denied an equal right to read – their future, and the generations that follow, could be impacted," said OHRC Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire. "Learning to read is critical in building a life-long sense of personal empowerment. It fundamentally shapes how we learn, work and socialize; builds self-confidence; improves employment opportunities; and enhances physical, emotional, and mental well-being."

Right to Read includes recommendations to the Ministry of Education, school boards and faculties of education on how to address systemic issues that affect the right to learn to read, including:

- Adopting a new Kindergarten Program and Grades 1 to 8 Language curriculum that features direct and systematic instruction in foundational reading skills, and preparing current and future teachers on evidence-based approaches to teaching students to read
- Screening every student, at least twice a year from Kindergarten to Grade 2, to identify students at risk for reading difficulties, using standardized, evidence-based screening tools
- Standardizing and providing stable funding for evidence-based reading interventions
- Making access to interventions equitable for all students
- Providing and supporting timely and effective accommodation, including greater access to evidence-based software and assistive technology
- Improving access to professional assessments and ensuring greater consistency and transparency in the assessment process
- Setting clear and consistent standards for school boards and mandating better data collection, analysis and reporting
- Improving communication with students and parents
- Working with experts in the science of reading to implement the OHRC's recommendations.

The OHRC calls on all partners in Ontario's education system to meet their responsibilities and legal duties under the Ontario Human Rights Code to remove barriers that limit students' opportunities to learn and succeed. This work will require many partners to collaboratively implement system-wide changes. It will also require sufficient, stable and ongoing funding.

<https://www.idaontario.com/ohrc-right-to-read-inquiry/>

How does this decision affect BC?

What is your district doing to ensure all instruction is effective and providing all learners the best opportunity to learn to read?

email psa53@bctf.ca





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Mental Health Awareness Month

Children and youth with learning disabilities are at least twice as likely to experience mental health problems, including anxiety, depression and disruptive behaviour disorders, which can affect their ability to learn, build interpersonal relationships and cope with setbacks.

<https://childdevelop.ca/>

The World Health Organization says that mental health disorders will be the world's leading cause of disability by 2030.² One in five Canadians – and one in five students – experience a mental health illness or concern in any given year.³ “Seventy percent of mental health problems have their onset during childhood or adolescence.”⁴ “An estimated 1.2 million children and youth are affected by mental illness, yet less than 20 percent receive appropriate treatment”.⁵ Further, “suicide accounts for 24 percent of all deaths among 15-24-year-olds in Canada” and is the second leading cause of death among teens.⁶ Nearly one-quarter (23.4 percent) of First Nations youth reported psychological distress scores which suggested that they were likely to have a moderate to severe mental disorder.⁷ The lifetime prevalence of suicide ideation and attempts among First Nations youth was 16 percent and 10.3 percent respectively.⁸

The spectrum of mental illness covers students from all backgrounds and across all grades. Many live with illness. Awareness, sensitivity and guidance are vital to helping students learn, grow and adapt regardless of obstacles or needs.

Optimal mental health enables good learning. That said, everyone, at some point in life, experiences challenges involving self-esteem, interpersonal relationships, confidence, mood and concentration. These concerns may be temporary or lasting, but they should never go unrecognized.

Early recognition and intervention are critical for mental health issues for students of all ages. Many illnesses develop and peak in the intermediate/secondary grades. Thus it is important that teachers be able to identify children at risk.

https://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/mental-health?sc_lang=en&



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What can teachers do to support mental health?

So many aspects of education provide ongoing opportunities to connect, build trust, and expand a child's support network. Here are some basic suggestions to promote positive mental health within your classroom.

1. Create a Positive Classroom Environment
 - a. limit difficulties and disagreements
 - b. eliminate stigmas
 - c. talk about mental health openly
2. Recognize concerning behaviours
 - a. social isolation
 - b. chronic health problems
 - c. trauma background
 - d. know what a crisis is (abuse, self-harm, suicide attempts, threats to others)
3. Intervene appropriately
 - a. approach situations with sensitivity, empathy, and understanding
 - b. acknowledge anger but don't accept abuse or offensive language
 - c. don't argue
 - d. reach out to other personnel who may have a strong connection
 - e. maintain professional boundaries
4. Be Sensitive
 - a. Recognize and appreciate that there may be community, religious and cultural differences that affect student and parent choices regarding mental health illnesses and treatment
 - b. Validate their feelings and hear their concerns
 - c. Speak simply and succinctly > Allow students time to process information and respond
 - d. Demonstrate patience, calm and a willingness to help

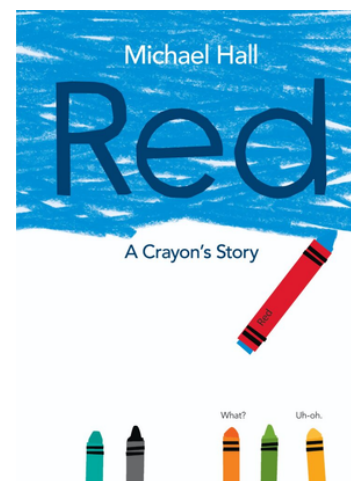
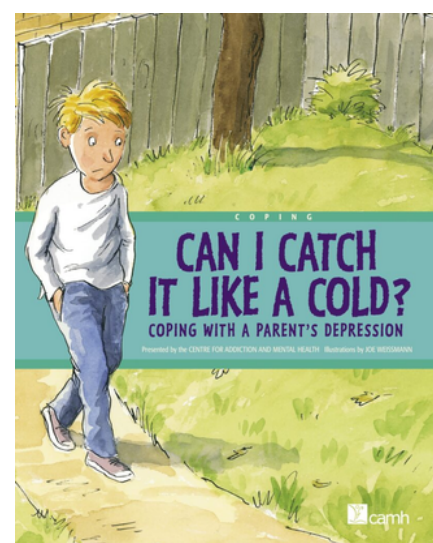
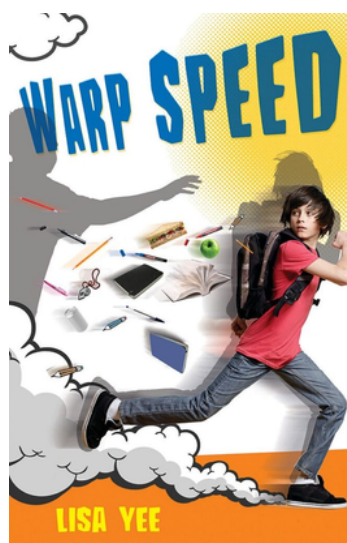
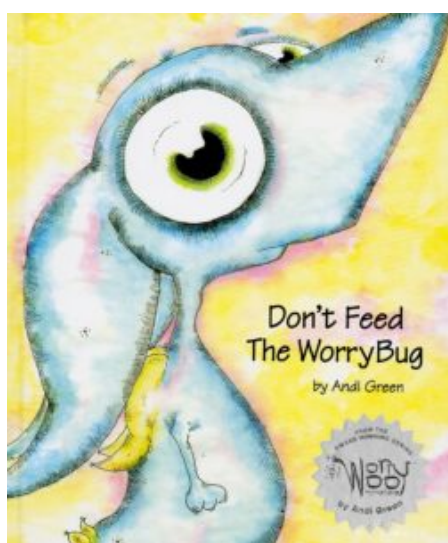
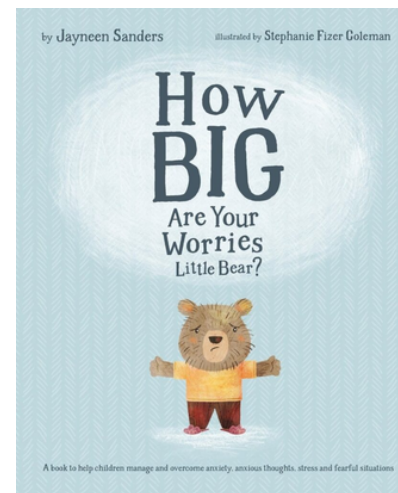
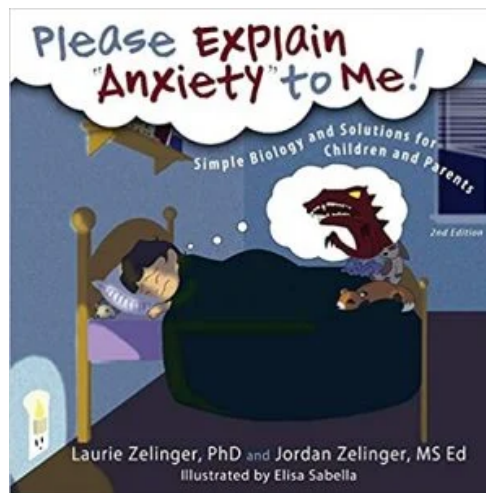
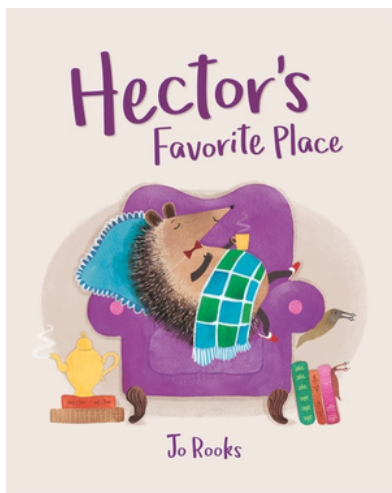


https://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/mental-health?sc_lang=en&

Helpful links

1. <https://cmha.ca/about-cmha/fast-facts-about-mental-illness>
2. <https://mentalhealthliteracy.org/live/>
3. <http://www.sickkids.ca/Brain-Mental-Health/index.html>
4. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/child-teen-mental-health/indigenous-child-teen-mental-health>
5. <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/mental-wellness-and-substance-use/mental-health-and-wellness-supports>

Children's Books on Mental Health



Woo Hoo! One of our members has secured a Canadian supplier of this handy tool!!!! Great for in-class support, intervention, and adapting materials. The Legiliner™ comes in multiple sizes and is refillable.



<https://legiliner.ca/>



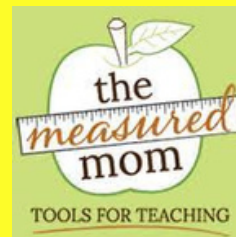
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Do you know a local supplier we should highlight? email psac53@bctf.ca



Where to get Free Decodables! Back due to demand!!

- Starfall
 - <https://teach.starfall.com/lv/projectables/PROJ009>
- Halfpint kids
 - <https://halfpintkids.com/>
- Flyleaf
 - <https://www.flyleafpublishing.com>
- Phonics books
 - <https://www.phonicbooks.com/>
- The Measured Mom
 - <https://www.themeasuredmom.com/free-decodable-books/>
- Phonics Play (comics)
 - <https://phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/about.html>
- Core Knowledge (CKLA)
 - coreknowledge.org
- Tools for Reading
 - <https://www.tools4reading.com/>
- Sound City Reading
 - <https://www.soundcityreading.net/>
- SPELD
 - <https://www.speldsa.org.au/phonic-books>





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Dyslexia Resources

Over 800 sources on this Pinterest board!

- <https://www.pinterest.ca/focusandread/dyslexia-resources/>

Research, Webinars, Teacher Training, and Webinars here!

- <https://www.dys-add.com/>

The Best Site for resources, references, guidance, protocols!

- <https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-at-a-glance/>

Focusing on Strengths for Success!

- <https://www.dyslexia.yale.edu/>

From the University of Michigan

- <http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/>

What is Dyslexia?

- <https://www.understood.org/en/articles/what-is-dyslexia>

LD Online Basics!!

- <https://www.ldonline.org/ld-topics/reading-dyslexia/dyslexia-basics>

Research-Based Resources and Info!

- <https://www.readingrockets.org/reading-topics/dyslexia>



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BCTF

Explore resources on a variety of Social Issues available for both professional growth and classroom use on TEACHBC - BCTF. Exploring a variety of issues including a wide variety of time topics.

As educators, we accept our broad responsibility to build a better world for future generations

- Aboriginal Education
- Antiracism
- Disability Justice
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Gender-Based Violence
- International Solidarity
- LGBTQ2S+
- Peace and Global Education
- Status of Women

<https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/social-issues#aboriginal-education>



Association links, Training & Post-Graduate programming

Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders:

<https://autismoutreach.ca/>



Autism Awareness Centre Inc.:

Check out the recorded webinars available through this Canadian site:

<https://autismawarenesscentre.com/product-category/past-webinars/>



Autism Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness - Find resources through POPFASD:

<https://www.fasdoutreach.ca/resources/>



Get Involved with Special Olympics BC !!

<https://www.specialolympics.ca/british-columbia>



Vancouver Island University Graduate Diploma in Special Education:

<https://www.viu.ca/programs/education/inclusive-education-special-education-graduate-diploma>



University of Northern BC MEd. in Special Education:

<https://www2.unbc.ca/calendar/graduate/education>



University of British Columbia MED. in Special Education:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/graduate-degree-programs/master-of-education-special-education>



Reading Teacher's Top Ten Tools:

<https://readingteacherstoptentools.com/>



Memorial University Graduate Diploma in Reading Development & Instruction:

<https://www.mun.ca/educ/programs/graduate/diploma/GradDipReadingDev.php>



May Question:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. How are you accessing/implementing supports or programming in your classes?

Please email psac53@bctf.ca

We are continuing to look for your recommendations for Level A and Level B assessment resources!

Please email psac53@bctf.ca

We are excited to begin building a resource bank as part of the LATA website!

Check out the following groups on Facebook and let us know who else to follow:

[LATA BC](#)

[Science of Reading - British Columbia](#)

[Canada's Science of Reading - What I Should have Learned in College](#)

[Special Education Resource Teachers](#)

[Special Education Teacher Leaders](#)

[Math Intervention Matters](#)

Members' Questions:

Please send your recommendations to psac53@bctf.ca

Do you have a question that we can put to members?

Send us an email: [**psac53@bctf.ca**](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)

Join the Executive:

Volunteering as a member-at-large on the LATA Executive is a great way to build cross-district relationships, to share ideas for great resources, to support others in the field, and to bring speakers to your colleagues through invitation at our annual conference in October.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Executive.



FREE RESOURCES!

Visit these blog posts for information and free resources:

1. <https://sites.google.com/pattan.net/pattan-literacy/2020-pattan-literacy-symposium/language-comprehension-strand>
2. <https://www.idaontario.com/french-sl-resources/>
3. <https://sarahsnippets.com/>
4. <https://thisreadingmama.com/>
5. <https://www.themeasuredmom.com/>
6. <https://www.mrsdscorner.com/>
7. <https://www.oneroomschoolhouse.net/>
8. <http://www.breezyspecialed.com/>
9. <https://mrspspecialties.com/>
10. <https://www.earlywood.org/domain/159>
11. <https://sharemylesson.com/collections/special-education>
12. <https://learn2teachwithbrandie.com/resources-teachers/>
13. <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/resource-library/>
14. <https://do2learn.com/>
15. <https://autismclassroomresources.com/free-special-education-webinars/>
16. <https://education.ufl.edu/ufl/virtual-teaching/main/>
17. <https://www.reallygreatreading.com/heart-word-magic>
18. <https://www.carlasiravo.com/music>
19. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPJqkhSNKynPzgLj4Xuqp9g>

Do you know of free resources we should add to our list?
email psac53@bctf.ca



LATA Goals

The LATA Executive continues to work towards the goals identified below:

- 1. To increase engagement with LATA members by using effective communication strategies**
 - a. Website, Email, Newsletters**
 - b. Social Media**
 - i. Twitter and Facebook to support**
- 2. To support and to provide mentorship for those moving in to the Special Education field**
 - a. Scholarship - application available on <http://www.latabc.com/>**
 - b. Connecting with new-to-district and mentorship organizations within various school districts**
 - c. presentation at New Teachers' Conferences (e.g., BCTF New Teachers' Conference, January 2021)**
- 3. Continue offering Learning Support/Inclusive Education professional development opportunities for members (service to members)**
 - a. Collaborative Teacher Inquiry Project (TIP)**
 - i. We are fortunate to work alongside Catherine Quanstrom and Jessica Willows, BCTF Facilitators, for five half-day meetings to discuss**
 - 1. The goal of this project is to collect data from BCTF Learning Assistance Teacher members on**
 - a. the challenges faced by them in this role**
 - b. to identify areas/resources/supports for members**
 - c. seek guidance on ways to improve and increase support for students with learning disabilities/challenges/exceptionalities.**
 - 2. Thank you for supporting future surveys and for reaching out to us via email with any suggestions and supports on this topic. See the BCTF Inquiry cycle.**
 - b. Seeking out new and diverse speakers for workshops and the annual LATA conference.**
 - c. Engage with Ministry of Education staff, University departments, etc., as appropriate.**
 - d. Network and Collaborate with other PSAs**
 - e. PSA Council meeting update**
 - i. Three times a year, the Presidents of the 32 Provincial Specialist Associations (PSA) meet to discuss issues of importance to the membership and to represent issues faced by members. The next PSA Council meeting is on March 4. Please send your Executive (psac53@bctf.ca) any issues of importance so that we can discuss possible ways for changes to be brought about in working and learning conditions.**
 - f. Workshops offered through district-based conferences (e.g., Surrey Teachers' Association (May), Victoria Teachers' Association (Feb 12, 2021))**

