



### **Maria Bagby**

Owner/Director and Consultant

Reading Specialist  
Educational Therapist  
Licensed Master Teacher  
National Board Certified

Therapeutic Literacy Center  
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Maria offers affordable professional development on these topics\*:

**What's involved in learning to read and why 30% have difficulties.**

**Dyslexia:  
What it is and what it's NOT**

**ADD/ADHD:  
What it is and what it's NOT**

**What's involved in raising your test scores without doing test-prep?**

\*Contact Maria to request professional development individual to your school and community.

### **Maria's Background:**

Maria began her career as a kindergarten teacher while she earned her first MA degree (Early Childhood Psychology) from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She earned her second MA degree (Reading) in the years she lived as a Dominican Sister in Grand Rapids Michigan. She taught in Catholic schools and also gained experience as a campus minister and jail minister working with incarcerated women who had young children as well as a hospital chaplain during those years.

Missing the west, she moved to the ski-towns in Colorado and returned to the classroom. While she was there she earned her third MA degree (Curriculum and Assessment) and became a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). She then worked with the Milken Family Foundation in the development of a teacher excellence program (Teacher Advancement Program) and became a lead national trainer of Mentor and Master Teachers.

Through that experience at the national level, she also had an impact in the development and scoring of the National Association of Educational Progress (NAEP) and then was invited to work in the Unit of Student Assessment with the Colorado Department of Education in Denver. She was responsible for the development and scoring of the Colorado state test (CSAP) and professional development for teachers and administrators in how best to prepare for and administer the state assessment and how to interpret and communicate test results with parents and communities.

After spending a few years in the city, Maria returned to mountain life near Aspen and went back to the classroom to ensure that she had remained in touch with the realities of teaching and learning at the school level. She worked as an academic interventionist and Title 1 teacher with the students in that 20% group that didn't have an IEP, but were falling behind their peers. There, she volunteered as a lead community organizer passing a mill levy that helped fund the schools facing budget cuts from the state. It was at that time that she earned her certification in using the Orton Gillingham methodologies and was trained in all of the Lindamood Bell programs.

Maria's passion became remediating dyslexia and began her transition into private practice outside of the system of school. That's when the Therapeutic Literacy Center began to take shape opening as a Boot Camp. She then earned her certification as an Educational Therapist and relocated her practice here to Solana Beach and opened her office in the Del Mar Corporate Center across from the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Led by her belief that all learning problems are *TEMPORARY*, she has developed a system to **FIX underlying learning skills** for students working harder than they should and/or are falling behind:

DYSLEXIA - ADD/ADHD – AUDITORY PROCESSING  
VISUAL PROCESSING - WORKING MEMORY – COMPREHENSION  
PROCESSING SPEED – CRITICAL THINKING – SPELLING  
and more...

