

“Dedicated to bright minds that learn differently.”

We have been operating for less than a year, and already we have so much good news to share! As always, we thank the Penrose–St. Francis Health Foundation for our original start–up grant. All that we have accomplished is due to their generosity. We are grateful to Penrose–St. Francis Hospital for our four–thousand feet of space in the St. Francis Health Center building. They have received us warmly and made us part of the Penrose family.

Our mission is to provide a center for professional development in reading while serving as a community resource for the diagnosis and remediation of dyslexia. We have addressed both parts of this mission successfully in these first few months. Our professional development program, now called *The Reading Institute*, was kicked off last summer with our first group of trainees in the Dyslexia Specialist Program (DSP), who continue to dedicate themselves to their dyslexic students. With trainees both here at our Center and in the public schools, we are reaching approximately thirty students who would not have otherwise received the intensive intervention that they need. We look forward to increasing this number next year—we already have our dates and instructor in place for next summer’s DSP training.



Six of our trainees at The Dyslexia Center’s Open House

The most recent addition to The Reading Institute is our new partnership with LETRS—Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. We are their first affiliate site in Colorado, and the eighth in the country! This well-respected, highly-researched program will be offered in four three-day classes this spring. LETRS is a perfect complement to our Dyslexia Specialist Program. DSP teaches intensive interventions for students who are already delayed in reading, while LETRS offers a solid background in reading acquisition and screening options for general teachers who can screen for signs of disabilities and stop delays before they start.

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Here at the Center, students come for remediation up to four days a week. Trainees and experienced Therapists alike are working with children and seeing growth in reading skills. We receive calls daily for assessment, and Dr. Fitzhugh has trained her staff to administer portions of the evaluations. We currently have five students coming to us for remediation, and will be starting new classes in January.

While providing a local resource for intervention, Dr. Fitzhugh has also been active at the state level. Talks are in progress with the Colorado Department of Education about becoming a Research Institute for the state. We have partnered with Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic, and are currently working with the Catamount Institute to plan our upcoming Catamount Critical Thinking Camp for the summer of 2008. Also in 2008, we will begin a program for adults with dyslexia, so that access to the tools for reading are available to all ages.



Dr. Fitzhugh and Ed Steinberg, Ass't Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education

And finally, we are proud to have recruited an outstanding Board of Directors for our Center. We gratefully welcome: Robert Durham, Ph.D., Chair; Jan McCauley, Vice-Chair; Phil DeVries; Kristel Hybl; Dolly Wong Kast; Peggy Littleton; Teresa O'Connell; and Christy Brown Walsh.

We are grateful for the support our community has given us in our first year of operations. We look forward to many more years of serving children in the region.

Lynne Fitzhugh, Ph.D., CALT
Director

Patty Daily, CALT
Certified Academic Language Therapist

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