

# 2007 GIFTSNC Conference Workshops/Speakers

Workshops for the 2007 GIFTSNC Conference will have several tracks:

1. **General workshops**
2. **Vendor workshops**
3. **High School related workshops**

Additional workshops may be added, so be sure to check the website [www.giftsnc](http://www.giftsnc) for updates.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

In his keynote address, **Dr. Pittman** will discuss an integrative medical approach to developmental delay, brain injury, and other conditions affecting neurologic function. Chronic brain disorders include a wide range of conditions with a variety of causes, though common abnormalities can often be identified which when treated can often improve the quality of life on many levels. A comprehensive and holistic approach to understanding these conditions will include explanations of the following factors:

1. Predisposing genetic factors that sensitize some children to toxic mediated brain damage, occurring either in utero or soon after birth.
2. Hormonal factors that affect brain development and increases susceptibility to damage.
3. How toxins, especially mercury and lead, cause damage to the developing brain and how appropriate removal of metals can restore function.
4. How chronic infections, primarily in the digestive tract, are contributing to toxic mediated brain damage and immune dysfunction.
5. Nutrient deficiencies and how this can affect cell function and development.
6. How brain injury and inflammation can be effectively treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

## Workshops:

### 1. Understanding and Teaching Children with ADHD by Lisa Senatore Ahern, PhD

This workshop will include a brief overview of ADD/ADHD and how the symptoms affect learning, assessment implications for home-schooled children, a brief review of best practices for treatment of ADD/ADHD, and suggestions for teaching strategies that can be used to facilitate successful learning in ADD/ADHD children. Suggestions for appropriate instruction and management strategies will be made for a variety of developmental levels

### 2. Increasing Our Children's Learning Potential Kim Ashby

Processing information correctly and easily is a key to learning success and an area where many of our children struggle. The way a child's body takes in information--visually, auditorily, tactilely-- will affect their ability to pull it back out when needed. Join Kim Ashby as she discusses techniques that can be utilized in the home school to help a child process learned information more effectively.

### 3. Beginning Home Schooling Kim Ashby

If you have just started home schooling or are considering home education for your child or children, this is the workshop for you. We will discuss NC law, testing, curriculum types, learning styles, getting started, organizational tips and more.

### 4. Single Parent Home Schooling Revonda Balser and Jackie Pilgrim

Are you a single parent struggling with the decision to homeschool your special needs child (ren)? Or perhaps you have already made the decision to homeschool and are overwhelmed by the demands. If you are like many parents of children with special needs we get caught up in the day to day "fitting it all in". Our own needs often get pushed aside, leading to stress, burn-out, and sometimes resentment. This workshop will help you focus on ways to schedule your time so that you can accomplish your goals as well as implement down time without guilt. We will also discuss local available resources.

Strengthening your positive outlook on the quality of your life and the life of your child

- Practical Scheduling
- Methods for dealing with learning difficulties
- Building a personal support team for yourself and your child
- Strengthening and deepening your positive relationship with your child
- Local Resources

You will leave the workshop with some solid tools for bringing your life back into balance and supporting your own needs as well as the needs of your child.

This workshop was developed and is led by two mothers, Revonda Balser and Jackie Pilgrim, who both have children with special needs. Revonda and Jackie are experienced, compassionate, and offer practical guides for single parents who want to improve the quality of their lives as well as the lives of their children.

5. **File Folder Activities** by Lisa Blocker

This workshop will be a **Make It, Take It Activity**. File folder activities are a great way to adapt materials that are normally consumable into an activity that can be used over and over. Most special needs children require repetition above and beyond a typically developing child so using materials such as these are a big time saver and add lots of fun to your teaching! Lisa has been using file folder activities with her children for many years now and has streamlined the process using some very simple ideas for making them quickly and easily. She will talk about adapting file folder game activities for special needs kids, making worksheets, and all sorts of other materials into reusable file folder type activities. She will talk about her adaptations to the process that make it more easily done with equipment that can be purchased for home use without expensive office store services. During the workshop each participant will assemble at least one file folder game to take with them

6. **Educational/Psychological/Neuropsychological Testing: What can I learn from it and when would it be helpful to my child?** by Patricia W. Collins (Patsy,) PhD, HSP-P

This workshop centers on educational, psychological, and neuropsychological testing and how information from such testing can be used to aid in the instructional/learning process. The various cognitive processes that underlie a child's ability to learn to read, write, and do math will be briefly discussed along with how these processes are assessed, when testing is appropriate, and how the information gained can be used to the child's benefit.

7. **Homeschooling through High School** by Victoria Cooley

This workshop discusses the parent's transition in role from high school instructor to high school counselor; the workshop will also cover transcripts, dual enrollment, and some curriculum and college preparation materials.

8. **Fitting in and Feeling Good** by Cris Elmore, M.S.

Presentation of a systematic approach to teaching children who are mainstreamed with HFA, Aspergers, PDD and Developmental Delay the building blocks of fundamental social skills. This will be based on the book Super Skills by Judith Coucouvanis.

9. **Tips and Tricks to Homeschooling a Child with ADHD** Linda Johnson

After learning how to see your child from a more positive perspective, you will learn ways to work with your child's symptoms rather than against them. Overview of resource books, websites, curriculum, and planning/classroom suggestions.

10. **Sensory Integration: Theory and Diagnosis Part 1** Linda King-Thomas, MHS, OTR/L

This session will provide an introduction to the sensory integration theory, including a review of the sensory systems. The behaviors and characteristic of sensory integration dysfunction will be described and its influence on daily life activities.

11. **Sensory Integration: Intervention Strategies Part 2** Linda King-Thomas, MHS, OTR/L

This session will discuss sensory diet intervention strategies. Concepts of arousal and attention, as well as activities for use at home and in the community in order to maintain optimum arousal will be presented. Attendance at the first introductory session is strongly recommended.

12. **Setting and Achieving Goals** by Sherry McNelis

This workshop is designed to help the participant with setting goals for their special needs student. We will, also, learn how to break these goals down into manageable steps so that they can be met in an organized way.

13. **Spelling for Dyslexics** by Laurie Newell

Do the words you teach your child in spelling seem to wash away as quickly as writing in the sand when the tide comes in? Learn how to etch words in stone instead so that the correct spelling is used in daily writing. This method, developed by a homeschooling mother of two dyslexic children, employs a simple system of teaching spelling is effective and free.

14. **Break Down Curriculum for Success** by Sue Patrick

In this workshop Sue will explain how to make your curriculum and work "make sense" to your child. Often a child's ability to succeed simply depends on having the material presented in smaller pieces that are especially tailored to him. Also, presenting his material throughout the day with variety and enhanced teaching "angles" will make sure he truly learns. While this is great for all children, Sue will also address teaching low functioning children as well as gifted and distractible.

15. **Teaching the Beginning Braille Reader** by Lusi Radford

I will cover creating a good Braille climate at home, materials to use, and teacher made games.

16. **Switching from Print to Braille** by Lusi Radford

I will cover creating positive attitudes about Braille, materials to use and ways to integrate Braille in to the class work.

**17. Teaching Social Studies to Blind Children by Lusi Radford**

I will cover concept development, maps and other resources, home made teaching tools, and integrating technology with social studies.

**18. High School and Beyond—A Parent’s Perspective by Chris Raines**

The experiences in my life with my three children, Justin 30y/o, Stephanie 28y/o who was born at 29 weeks gestation and has had multiple physical as well as learning difficulties and Harrison 24 y/o who was born at 37 weeks gestation and has had difficulty with multiple areas during his life including Sensory Integrative Dysfunction as well as my work as a nurse have shaped who I am and how I look at life. I am very lucky to have wonderful children but it has not always been easy and I hope to share my story with you to give a different perspective about children with disabilities after high school and beyond.

**19. Music Therapy: Accessing Development with Music by Paula Sciclun, MT-BC, NMT**

What is music therapy? What is the difference between music therapy and music education? Most importantly, how can music be used to help my child? These are all questions commonly asked of music therapists. Be ready to move, play and sing as you learn about music therapy and how you can use music at home to help your child. .

**20. The Gifted/ADHD Connection by Dori Staehle**

Is your child bright and creative but bouncing off the walls? Or does she tune out and drift into her own world? Find out the underlying causes of inattention and hyperactivity and tips and techniques for these kids and their families.1) The Gifted/ADHD Connection - Is your child bright and creative but bouncing off the walls? Or does she tune out and drift into her own world? Find out the underlying causes of inattention and hyperactivity and tips and techniques for these kids and their families.

**21. Homeschooling Teens with Learning Differences by Dori Shaehle**

Does your child have problems with organization, study skills, writing, math, or reading comprehension? Find out some tips to make learning and college entrance easier.

**22. Homeschooling a Gifted, Talented, or Creative Child - by Dori Shaehle**

Children with abilities that exceed the norm are often left out of the special ed. equation. Find out why these kids are difficult to teach and parent and why homeschooling is often the best option.

**23. Alternative and Augmentative Communication by Rebecca Sitton, BS, ATP, RET**

What is an Augmentative Communication Device?

In this session participants will be introduced to alternative and augmentative communication devices. Strategies will include low and high tech options to increase communication. Participants will be given an overview of features available in devices to assist in making decisions if pursuit of an augmentative communication device is desired. Information will be provided on funding and device loan. Trial software will be available.

**24. Accessing Electronic Books and Activities on the Internet by Rebecca Sitton, BS, ATP, RET**

There are many interactive learning sites available on the internet but not all may be accessible. Find out how to use Publisher’s interactive and online resources to make curriculum text and activities accessible for educating children. In this session participants will learn about resources to help children access electronic texts and activities. Technology to access the computer and software to assist with reading and manipulating online material will be demonstrated. Free software resources and demo software will be shared.

**25. NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation by Alma Taylor**

The presentation will include an overview of the Division Vocational Rehabilitation Services in North Carolina. What the agency provides to eligible youth with disabilities “Transitioning from School to Life” The information will include: How to apply to for services, Eligibility criteria, scope of services provided by the agency, the VR process to employment, office locations, and the collaboration with other agencies and vendors to support transition.

**26. Teaching Language Arts, Literacy and Communications to Your Child with Moderate to Significant Developmental ‘Dis’abilities by Maria Troiani-Howard**

In this session, Maria will share strategies, modifications and tools to teach language arts, literacy, and communications to the child with moderate to significant cognitive or developmental ‘dis’abilities. Lots of visual examples will give you practical, ready-to-implement tools and ideas for teaching your child language, literacy, creative writing (and really any subject including math, science, and social studies). Maria will share various systems including low tech Augmentative Communications (picture symbol methodologies) and high tech Aug. Comm. (a computerized speech generating device). How to setup motivating interactions to foster communications in the community. How to encourage your creativity about modifying materials for your child’s learning style.

Have a child with severe fine motor and/or speech delays? That's no reason to limit their experience with creative writing or presentations. How to foster creative story writing and presentation skills in the child who cannot physically write or has limited speech.

Hard to motivate child? How to foster your child's curiosity to learn, even if it seems non-existent, and motivate your child to learn in all subject areas using props, toys and rewards. Adapt anything that motivates your child into a learning moment and transition to a teaching lesson. Maria's motto is "Setup for Success!"

After this session, you will be able to go home tonight and make a literacy kit with things you already have around your house!

The material presented in this session is applicable for pre-K through elementary developmental levels. Lots of practical, visual examples will be on display.

**27. Learning to Write & Writing to Learn: Dysgraphia by Sarah Bowman, MS,OTR/L**

Dysgraphia is a neurological disorder that results in poor handwriting and incorrect spelling. Has your child just begun learning to write? Are you noticing that they have a difficult time discriminating the size and space of their letters, or that they write the wrong or misspelled words despite instruction and review? This workshop will provide information of common errors seen in handwriting of individuals with dysgraphia. We will approach various treatment techniques to make learning to write enjoyable and less tedious. Learn ways to help your child learn to write so they can use this skill to continue to succeed and excel as they write to learn over the course of their continued education.

**28. Happy Parents, Happy Child! by Lucy M. Chartier, Ph.D., APRN-BC**

This workshop will be a discussion of ways parents can enliven their primary adult relationships and enhance the parent's individual life experience. Learn the benefits to the child of contented parents. Recall the value of joy, bliss, peace, harmony, being "in love", and discover where to find them again.

**29. Straight Talk from a Mother's Heart by Susan Renard**

A child with leukemia, breast cancer, adoption, two children diagnosed with ADD. How did this mother survive? Join Susan as she shares her journey of the joys and challenges of homeschooling.

**30. Teaching Math to Struggling Learners by Kathy Kuhl**

What are math disabilities? How do you bear with tackling math facts again, when your child didn't get them for the last four years? How can you move beyond the times tables when your child has not mastered them? What are your options for high school mathematics? Veteran homeschool mother and math teacher Kathy Kuhl discusses working with children with math disabilities in the homeschool.

**31. The Reluctant Reader: Are you and your Home School student struggling with learning to read /or can not progress in reading level? by Leslie Rosenberg, BA, OVT**

Discover the many different reasons and causes why your student may dislike, avoid and /or struggle with reading. Learn the reasons why your student (reading below or above grade level) still dislikes or avoids reading for pleasure.

This workshop will help you learn how to identify and improve the poor or undeveloped reading skills preventing your student from reading and learning efficiently and being able to do his/her academic assignments independently. As a Reading specialist and visual perceptual therapist treating reading disorders for 20 years, I have seen students with all types of reading problems and disorders. Most of these students do not progress appropriately in reading ability year after year, grade after grade. They insist they dislike reading and avoid assignments that require reading. Although they were often professionally evaluated and previously treated with specialized programs and tutoring, often the specific causes behind each student's issue was not fully addressed. If a student does not read with appropriate speed and efficiency for their grade level material, as well as comprehend the material, the overall stress and fatigue they may encounter interferes with the ability as well as the enjoyment of reading and learning. The happy enthusiastic early beginning reader will soon become discouraged with repeated failed efforts. Soon the student will avoid or dislike most subjects since reading is required in all areas of teaching. You must have good reading and comprehension skills to understand math word problems. Some students improve enough to pass their end of year grades but almost never read for pleasure, even through adulthood.

**Almost all my students have adamantly stated they hated to read.**

When the underlying issue was properly addressed, these same students became avid readers.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

**Does my student really hate reading?**

**Why does my student dislike reading?**

**Symptoms of Reading Problems that interfere with enjoyment**

**Different types of Reading Disorders**

## **Dyslexia vs Reading Disorder**

**How Reading Disorder impact all subject areas and learning**

**Tips & Strategies to Improve:**

**Phonics, Decoding , Fluency, Tracking , Speed, Comprehension , and Visualization**

**32. A Look into Living with Learning Difficulties (Part 1) by Kathryn Wentworth**

A video workshop presenting Dr. Richard LaVoie's "How Difficult Can This Be?" This is a must see for parents, professionals and educators who want a closer look into the world of students who struggle to learn. You will come away with a new perspective and a much deeper understanding of learning disabilities.

**33. A Look into Living with Learning Difficulties (Part 2) by Kathryn Wentworth**

The second half of Dr. Richard Lavoie's "How Difficult Can this Be?" will be presented. The topic of this session will center on Tutoring vs. NILD Educational Therapy. We will hypothetically apply both interventions for specific learning needs and talk about the pros and cons of each.

**34. Effective Future Planning for Families of Individuals with Disabilities by Susan Hartley**

This workshop will provide an overview of benefit eligibility and its impact on estate planning for families of children with disabilities, including types of trusts that can successfully dovetail with medicaid and SSI benefits. It is important to note that legal advice cannot be provided by the speaker; information presented will focus on available options which work effectively with benefit eligibility.

## **VENDOR WORKSHOPS:**

**35. Sue Patrick's Workbox System-Specialized and Structured Teaching by Sue Patrick**

This specialized workbox system will allow you to teach your child more effectively and at the same time help you to better organized your school day. Children using this system stay more focused and are more successful in learning and completing their school work. Starting Monday you will provide better organization for you and your child. It will then be easier to set up a school day of curriculum, variety, and fun, while steering your child to independence and focus.

**36. How to Incorporate Learn 'N Folders into Your Curriculum by Sharon Puryear and Debbie Jackson**

Learn 'N Folders, lapbooks and portfolders are all terms used for a new approach to learning. In this workshop we'll discuss how to use this technique with different learning styles, different teaching styles and different educational approaches. It's effective with children of all ages - even high school! Put the fun back into learning. There will be lots of examples to inspire you with! This class is designed mainly for adults.

**37. Study-An-Animal (a make-it and take-it lapbook) by Sharon Puryear and Debbie Jackson**

Let's complete a condensed version of Live & Learn's Study-An-Animal Learn 'N Folder! The folder will be filled with pre-printed blank books to take home and fill out about the animal of your choice. Discover what Learn 'N Folders are about by actually making a small one that you can use later! (Children should be accompanied by an adult.)

**38. Getting Peaceful--herbs and supplements to relax your child--and you! by Selby Normile**

This workshop will be geared toward the nervous system and the tools you need to support it. Hear about nutrients, essential oils, and pressure points you can use to de-stress, promote calm, clarity, or even sleep. The workshop will also touch on healthy alternatives to sugar

**39. They Created Us – Special Education, Medicaid Waivers, EPSDT, and Independent Case Management – A family's journey through a bureaucratic maze by Denise Mercado**

Special Education, Medicaid Waivers, EPSDT, and Independent Case Management are all part of a family's world when their child experiences disabilities. Denise Mercado is the author of *They Created Us*. Her book and presentation shares her journey through the different bureaucracies along with strategies to maneuver through a sometimes unresponsive system

**40. Math-U-See by Debbie Drummond**

Math-U-See is a multi-sensory math curriculum that takes the mystery out of teaching and learning math for teacher and student alike--replacing mystery with understanding! Come see how to make concepts ranging from counting to algebra come alive for your students.

**41. Discovery Toys Can Help by Kechie McCallum**

On our latest, most fulfilling and significant project, Discovery Toys has interfaced with Patricia J. Krantz, Ph.D., who is Executive Director of the famous Princeton Child Development Institute, to articulate how to use Discovery Toys products to deliver rich, sensory and educational experience by understanding the most commonly shared learning difficulties and matching

toys and activities to support tailored learning programs for children with Autism. Come see how Discovery Toys products can benefit the children in your life.

42. **An Assistive Technology Primer: A Quick Introduction by Ken Whitley, MA, CCC-Sp.**

The field of assistive technology has made possible what was difficult or impossible for many special needs students. However, as with all forms of technology, these new tools require mastering by families, educators and other professionals in order to effectively apply them with students. This presentation will provide a general overview of the most common forms of assistive technology employed in the education of special needs students. Focus will be given to simple environmental control, computer access, special needs software, and augmentative communication.

43. **It's Only Natural by Christy Bauer**

Christy will discuss how to take the processed and additive laden foods out of our diet while maintaining great taste. Back to basics cooking doesn't have to take all day, but it will provide the nutrition that was meant to be in our meals. You can make healthful changes in your family's diet without full scale mutiny!

44. **TURBO CHARGED CHILDHOOD: Using Nutritional Supplements to Improve Mental Functioning Among Children with Attention Deficit Disorders, as well as, other Mental & Emotional Challenges. by Russell Thomas, PhD**

This workshop will discuss the link between nutrition and various mental health challenges many children face during the course of homeschooling. Over 4 years ago and quite by accident (or divine intervention), Dr. Thomas began an incredible journey of research, clinical observation & personal experience combining nutritional supplements with traditional psychological treatment to help children and adults deal with unique mental & emotional challenges, including attention deficits and mood disorders. He will be sharing this journey in this workshop where he will present a brief explanation of the neurobiology of various mental functions, why nutrition plays such an important role in these functions, what makes a good nutritional supplement and how you can use supplements to improve the mental functioning of your child.

45. **Put on Your Own Oxygen Mask First: Managing Parental Stress and Overload by Russell Thomas, PhD**

Most airline companies begin each flight with a brief instructional video explaining that in the event of depressurizing in the plane's cabin, an oxygen mask will fall out of the overhead compartment. The instructions continue to explain that before you can assist anyone else, *please put on your own oxygen mask first!* The instructions for caring for a special needs child are similar: *make sure that mom & dad's needs are met too!* Several studies have suggested that children take their "emotional well-being" cues from mom and dad. These studies conclude that children function better when they perceive that mom & dad are "okay". In this unique workshop, Dr. Thomas will address the needs of parents of special needs children and how attending to these needs provides the foundation for optimum care, training and sense of emotional well-being for their children. A few of the areas covered include Maintaining Emotional Equilibrium, Maintaining Relationship Equilibrium, Managing Your Time, Maintaining Your Spiritual Well-Being, and a special section on *Listening to Your Body: Attending to your nutritional needs associated with stress*. This workshop is a must for parents who are frazzled, emotional depleted and need encouragement managing the demands and needs of parenting in a special needs world.

46. **Reaching the Reluctant Writer by Sandra Selling**

"I can't. It's too hard. I don't know what to write." Are these the responses that meet every writing assignment you give? Is your student's work short, overly simplistic, and uninteresting? Come discover a method of teaching writing that will not only dramatically improve their writing, but will even make it fun!

47. **SAT Essay Writing by Sandra Selling**

One of the most frightening aspects of the new SAT is the essay portion, yet that need not be. This workshop will take the mystery out of writing by presenting a clear model for essay writing that will not only help you prepare your student for the SAT essay, but will also translate to other essay assignments as well.

48. **The Importance of Disability in God's Plan by Brenda Murphy**

Paul confessed that when he was weak he was strong because he had to rely on God and not himself. As parents, especially parents or teachers of children with learning disabilities, accepting, even reveling in our weaknesses, produces unimagined strength, power, and courage. By embracing the importance of disability in our children's lives and our own, we both, parent and child alike, experience maturity, completeness, wholeness, and hope unavailable without it. This powerful workshop combines poignant life experiences with practical advice to clarify the unique power of disability in God's plan.

49. **Play for a Purpose: The Right Start for Preschooler by Brenda Murphy**

Children's play is children's work. Children who are taught to play "smart" will be "smart" when they begin their academic careers. Now's the time to teach them right from the start. This workshop will teach you how to maximize these precious years and ready your child for academic success. It will cover specific, cost-effective, educationally-sound activities as well as help you establish an inviting learning environment at home. You'll also learn early-detection signals for learning difficulties and what to do if they happen. *\*This workshop is also appropriate for students with learning delays and disabilities.*

**50. God's Original Diet for Optimal Health by Ann B. Herrick**

I enjoy being creative in the kitchen. I've seen the evidence of the problems with the Standard American Diet as well as the evidence of the benefits of a vegan raw food diet. I will share this information and will be pleased to answer questions.

**51. Personal Financial Management: An Overlooked Necessity in Today's Education System by Jack Letzer**

A high level summary of Are You BEHIND the Eight Ball: Six Cornerstones of Personal Financial Freedom. The principal goal of this workshop is to raise the level of awareness and anticipation in the key areas of personal financial planning among young Americans to avoid being subjected to the pitfalls that so many adults are afflicted with. We will briefly discuss Budgeting, Elimination of debt, Home ownership principles, Investing, Nursing and long term care planning and Death preparation (estate planning.)

**52. Learning In Spite of Labels, Scaredy Cat Reading System, and MUCH MORE! Angie Cutlip**

Whether you are just getting started with teaching reading or hitting some obstacles and need remedial assistance, the Scaredy Cat Reading System is a multi-sensory, user-friendly method that appeals to both the child and parent. Joyce Herzog is the author of Scaredy Cat Reading System. The wealth of ideas reflect her years of practical experience and also makes it easier for you to adapt the program to suit the needs of different learners. You can do more auditory (listening to the CDs), visual (working with written materials in the book), or kinesthetic (hands-on) activities depending upon the need. Phonemic awareness is taught through simple stories, songs and games. Best of all it is fun and it MAKES SENSE! The workshop will provide an overview of the other Reading, Writing, Spelling, Bible and History resources available. You will learn about resources designed to assist you in developing your own Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for setting, measurable and attainable, school and life goals from cradle to adulthood.

**53. Breathing Life into Language Arts! Beth Hunter**

Instill a love of literature in your students while they develop their reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar skills. Discover how copywork, narration, dictation and other writing assignments complement the literature selection. Enrich your language arts study with projects, pictures, art and critical thinking activities. Learn how to breathe life into language arts!

**54. Beginning Phonics With Letterland Stamey Carter**

Stamey Carter will be presenting a short workshop about the popular Letterland phonics scheme and how it can help your kids get to grips with learning the letter shapes and sounds. Letterland was developed 30 years ago by an American, Lyn Wendon, who used the resources she developed to help children with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. The program is now used in over 100 countries worldwide and is as popular now as it was at its inception. Letterland is now based in Cambridge, UK, and publishes books, software, educational games and toys.

**55. Getting to the Root of Learning Disabilities by Kibbie Herbert**

With 42 step of development that must be completed to insure optimal learning, learning disabilities occur when one or more steps are skipped or incomplete. When the parent and child work together to fill in the gaps, the child can fulfill their God-given potential. Come see how a simple series of daily activities and tri-annual updates, can help you, the parent, help your child. There is hope to your "labeled" child!

**56. The Augustine Project: Using Orton-Gillingham and Wilson to Rescue At-Risk Readers Debbie McCarthy**

Learn how this non-profit based at Holy Family Episcopal Church in Chapel Hill trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide free, long-term, one-on-one or small group instruction in reading, writing and spelling to low-income children and teens who struggle with literacy skills. The Orton-Gillingham approach and Wilson Reading System materials guide the lesson planning process. The instruction is structured, systematic, and multisensory with emphasis on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Use Augustine training to teach your own special needs child, to help serve "the least of these" in your community, or both.