**Mary E. Dahlgren, Ed. D.**

President and CEO Tools 4 Reading, National Literacy Consultant

**OVERVIEW OF EXPERTISE**

Dr. Dahlgren has over twenty-five years of experience teaching children and training teachers, dealing with all aspects of reading curriculum and instruction. She has worked as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, professional development provider and consultant to numerous school districts and State Departments of Education in more than 30 states. She has been a National LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) trainer for fourteen years. She is the former Executive Director of Payne Education Center, a non-profit teacher training center in Oklahoma. The Center was established to provide teacher training for teachers of dyslexic students and to support parents of dyslexic children. In 2015, she served on the committee to review standard setting for examination of *Knowledge and Practice Standards*, developed by the International Dyslexia Association. Mary Ellis Dahlgren, Ed. D. is president of MED Consulting and Tools 4 Reading. She led a project working with 8 other literacy coaches in the state of Oklahoma which provided coaching and professional development for over 100 schools across the state from 2014-2016, managing $963,081 in funds. Through OKSDE in 2012-2014, she was the primary trainer of 58 Literacy Coaches and served as a consultant to the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Dr. Dahlgren is a founding board member of a school for adjudicated youth, SeeWorth Academy, organized by the late Chief Justice Alma Wilson. Justice Wilson named the school SeeWorth in hopes the children would "see the worth" in education and the future.

* **General Education Teacher**: Taught as a general education teacher from second grade through middle school in Guthrie, OK and Oklahoma City, OK. Recognizing the struggles of many students who had great difficulty learning to read, she was prompted to learn more about the science of reading and dyslexia.
* **Dyslexia Therapist**: Provided remedial instruction as a specialized teacher in a school for dyslexic children and as a private tutor. Used an Orton-Gillingham based program, *Alphabetic Phonic*s, as the curriculum for working with dyslexic students from 1st – 12th grades. Became a Qualified Instructor in order to train other teachers to use the Alphabetic Phonics curriculum.
* **Consultant:** CEO and President of Tools 4 Reading and MED Consulting, has worked nationally providing professional development and coaching for teachers and administrators in foundational literacy skills.Works with a select group of individuals trained by Dr. Louisa Moats, to deliver *Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling*, LETRS, throughout the United States to local schools, districts, and state departments. Continues providing support after face to face training through webinars, emails, and phone calls.
* **Author**: Using her expert knowledge of phonics, she has authored the highly successful “Sound/Spelling Cards”, which recently published a Second Edition. She is currently writing a program, *Kid Lips,* for teachers of Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten to focus on phonemes and articulation of speech sounds with a special emphasis to work with English Language Learners. Dahlgren also co-authored *Fundamentals of Literacy Instruction* (2016) for Voyager Sopris Learning.

**EDUCATION**

**Oklahoma State University,** Ed. D. in Curriculum and Instruction, 2003

**University of Central Oklahoma,** M.Ed., emphasis in Reading, 1991

**Oklahoma State University,** Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood, 1983

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Tools 4 Reading 2004 - present**

***President and Founder of Tools 4 Reading***

Coaching and consulting with school districts and local schools with a focus on data driven instruction and development of deeper understanding of literacy instruction. The mission of Tools 4 Reading is to empower educators to engage all students in order to impact communities. Collaborating on multiple projects related to increasing literacy and learning for all students. Developed a two-day Symposium to systematically teach the components of reading and provide engaging activities for pre-K – 5th grade teachers. Continuous coaching in schools through the cycle of teaching and learning process. Guiding teachers and administrators to understand the process of how students learn. Leads teams of teachers into a daily and natural incorporation of evidence based practices guided by data driven decisions to be problem solvers for all students.

**National Trainer Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) 2002-present**

***Literacy Consultant* – MED Consulting**

Works as a consultant for Voyager Sopris Learning with a select group of literacy experts as nationaltrainersof a comprehensive professional development designed to prepare teachers for the challenging work of teaching literacy. LETRS is a professional development program designed by Louisa Moats based on decades of neurological and cognitive research, field testing, and classroom experience. LETRS explains in-depth the core components of effective reading instruction and empowers educators, administrators, professional development directors, and reading specialists and coaches to make data-based decisions.

**Payne Education Center 1998 - 2003**

***Executive Director and Qualified Instructor***

Responsible for managing staff, fundraising, and providing training for teachers. The organization was founded by parents of dyslexic children to provide support to teachers and families dealing with dyslexia. Worked with board of directors to raise awareness of dyslexia and how to identify and teach dyslexic children to read, write, and spell.

**Oklahoma City Public Schools 1983-1998**

***Classroom Teacher***

As a public school teacher, taught several different grade levels, The self-contained classrooms included al core curriculum areas.

**CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES**

* Teaching Certificate: State of Oklahoma (Grades Pre-K – 8)
* Certified Academic Language Therapist, Academic Language Therapy Association, 1995
* Academic Language Therapy Association, 1998

**MEMBERSHIPS**

* Active member, International Dyslexia Association.
* Active member, International Reading Association
* Active member, Society for the Scientific Studies of Reading

**PUBLICATIONS**

* Dahlgren, M. & Glaser, D., (2016). *Fundamentals of literacy instruction, Grades K-3*. Dallas, TX: Voyager Sopris Learning.
* Dahlgren, M. (2005). Sound/spelling cards. MED Publishing, Oklahoma City, OK
* Joshi, R. M., Dahlgren, M., & Boulware-Gooden, R. (2002). Teaching reading in an inner city school through a multisensory teaching approach. *Annals of Dyslexia, 52*, 229-242.
* Dahlgren, M. (2002). Preparing teachers for the 21st century: A conversation among multiple stakeholders. In S.A. Beach, P. Fry, & J. Collins (Eds.), Perspectives on reading: Preparing teachers for the 21st century (pp. 67-70). Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press.

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

March 2017

Accepted Pennsylvania State Department of Education, *Engaging and Quick Daily Review to Establish Foundational Reading Skills,* Hershey, PA

September 2016

Accepted Colorado State Department of Education READing Conference, Orthographic Mapping and the Importance of Mastering Foundational Skills, Denver, CO.

July 2016 Voyager Sopris Learning 2016 Literacy Symposium, *Sound Walls vs. Word Walls*, Dallas, TX.

February 2016 Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning, *Daily Reading Routines*, New Orleans, LA.

July 2015 Voyager Sopris Learning 2015, *Writing to Read: How to Structure Written Responses to Reading*, Dallas, TX.

November 2013 Reading Assist Institute Conference, *How close is close?* University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

Reading Assist Institute Conference, *Comprehension strategies: focusing on the main idea of multi-paragraph text and writing a summary using text based evidence*, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

January 2012 National Comprehensive Literacy Institute for Striving Readers, *Looking more closely at morphological awareness: What does it mean to know a word?* Anaheim, CA.

February 2012 Alaska State Special Education Conference, *Understanding the Link between Oral Language and Comprehension*, Anchorage, AK.

June 2008 5th Annual National Reading First Conference, *Vocabulary and Oral Language Development*, Nashville, TN.