



## **Linda Balsiger, M.S., CCC-SLP Statement of Qualifications**

Required qualifications for the diagnosis of dyslexia and other learning disabilities are academic and real-world training and experience in the selection and administration and of standardized diagnostic tests, collection of background information, and the analysis and interpretation of relevant data to arrive at a diagnosis.

Linda Balsiger, MS, CCC-SLP has a Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology. She received extensive graduate level training in the administration and interpretation of standardized diagnostic tests for both adults and children. She is qualified to diagnose both spoken language disorders (such as aphasia or auditory processing disorder) and language based learning disorders (reading, writing, and spelling) in both children and adults. Speech-language pathology is an allied health profession and diagnostic codes are from the ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition), the set of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers for assigning a medical diagnosis.

Ms. Balsiger practices exclusively in the area of language-based learning disabilities. Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability, and specialized training in remediation of language-based learning disabilities is needed for successful treatment of dyslexia. A summary of credentials appears below.

### **Graduate Level Training and Certification**

- Master of Science, Speech-Language Pathology - University of Washington
  - Coursework and supervised clinical practica in literacy and language disorders
  - Training and supervised clinical experience in the evaluation, selection, administration, and interpretation of standardized diagnostic tests.
- CCC-SLP – Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), obtained by completing a master of science in speech-language pathology and passing national exams. Kept current through annual continuing education requirements.
- Oregon state licensure in speech-language pathology.

### **Additional Post-Graduate Training**

- Post-Graduate Clinical Fellowship: One year post-graduate clinical fellowship in the diagnosis and treatment of language-based learning disabilities, under the supervision of a recognized specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities.
- Additional Diagnostic Training: Completion of additional post-graduate training in diagnosing dyslexia, accredited and sponsored by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. .
- Ongoing Education: Ms. Balsiger completes 15 hours of formal continuing education per year in the areas of literacy and language-based learning disabilities. She also keeps abreast of current research and evidence-based practices through subscription to professional and academic journals in the areas of reading disorders, dyslexia, and other language-based learning disabilities.

### **Professional Memberships**

- International Dyslexia Association
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association
- Learning Disabilities Association of America