

Amy Barto, M.Ed.

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Education

Master of Education, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 2004

Concentration: Learning Disabilities (K-12)

Thesis: "Understanding a Learner: Portrait of a first grader created through the special education process".

Practicum Focus: *Application of Book Club and Academic Club Methodologies in Social Studies, English and Mathematics with Middle School Students with Learning Disabilities*

B.A, Elementary Education and English, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI 1994

Minor: Social Sciences

Conference Presentations

"Engaging Vocabulary". LDA of America International Conference, 2021. Virtual Conference.

"Basics for Remote Teaching with Students with Learning Disabilities". LDA of America International Conference, 2021. Virtual Conference.

"Engaging Vocabulary". Michigan Reading Association Summer Literacy Institute, 2016, Bellaire, MI.

"Some 'Science' of Reading and Writing: research-based strategies for improving vocabulary instruction". Michigan Reading Association Summer Literacy Institute, 2016, Bellaire, MI.

"Some 'Science' of Reading and Writing: research-based strategies for improving vocabulary instruction". Michigan Reading Association State Conference, 2016, Detroit, MI.

"Engaging Vocabulary". Learning Disabilities Association of America Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD and Atlanta, GA.

“Phonological Awareness and Multisensory Strategies”. Campfire West Michigan 4C Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Developing Mathematical Thinking Strategies”. Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference 2011, Lansing, MI.

“Table Talk: Technology on a Budget for Teachers”. Learning Disabilities Association of America Conference, Chicago, IL.

“Learning in the 21st Century”. Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference, 2009, Lansing, MI.

“Technology on a Budget for Teachers”. Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference, Lansing, MI.

“Hands-on Algebra Instruction”. Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Hands-on Algebra Instruction”. Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference, Lansing, MI.

Other Trainings and Presentations

“Implementing UBD+DI”. Lake Michigan Academy Staff, 2019-2020.

“Literacy in Content Areas”. West Side Christian Middle School, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Identification of Learning Disabilities and Eligibility as SLD for Special Education Services”. Choice Schools Special Education Department, 2019, Lansing, MI.

“Data-Driven Math Instruction for Elementary through High School for students with Learning Disabilities”. Lake Michigan Academy Staff, 2018-2019.

“Data-Driven Literacy Instruction for Elementary through High School for students with Learning Disabilities”. Lake Michigan Academy Staff, 2018-2019.

“Implementing *Solve It!*: Mathematical Problem Solving for Students with Mathematical Difficulties”. Lake Michigan Academy Staff, 2018.

“Introduction to *Framing Your Thoughts*”. Lake Michigan Academy Staff, 2018.

“Implementing School-wide Research Based Instructional Strategies for Students with Learning Disabilities”. Lake Michigan Academy Staff, 2018.

“Including All in Quality Afterschool Programs (panel)”. ELO Network Professional Development/ Campfire West Michigan 4C Technical Assistance Committee, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Phonological Awareness and Multisensory Strategies”. Head Start Kent County, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Study Skills Strategies” for high school students. Steepletown, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Study Skills Strategies” for high school students. My Kent High School, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Structured, Multisensory Reading Instruction with Adults”. Literacy Center of West Michigan, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Reading Instruction and Differently-abled Individuals”. Heart of West Michigan United Way, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Options for LD Students for High School Math Leading to a Diploma” for School Administrators. Kent ISD, Grand Rapids, MI.

Publications and Writing Experience

LDA Today, Editor & Contributing Author

May 2020 - Present

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Newsletter for nationwide community related to research, education, advocacy, public policy, and related issues impacting LDA members, individuals with learning disabilities and the education field.

Blog Author

2008 - Present

- [Cognitively Yours](#)
- [Using My Words for Good](#)
- [Reading in Real Life](#)
- [LDA of Michigan News](#)
- [Barto's World](#)
- [Becoming Web Wise](#)

Teaching Experience

Independent Education Consultant

1997-Present

Focus Areas: Tutoring, Advocacy, Workshops, and/or Professional Development related to Executive Functions, Self-Advocacy, Learning Strategies, Language & Literacy Development, Multi-sensory Techniques, Brain Development for Teachers, Parents and/or Students, Accommodations and Assessment for Students with Learning Differences, Navigating the World of IDEA and ADA, IEPs and 504s (for parents and students), Literacy, Math, Humanities and Social Sciences

Lake Michigan Academy, Grand Rapids, MI

1997-2001, 2008-2011 & 2016-2020

Courses Taught: English, Social Studies, Math, Careers, Senior Seminar, Intervention (Reading, Writing, Math & Executive Functions) and various specials/enrichment courses

Responsibilities & Roles: Non-profit Administration; Special Education Director; Curriculum Director; Assessment Specialist; Senior Advisor; Resource Center Coordinator; Marketing & Communications; Employability Coordinator; Registrar; Database Manager; Community Outreach; Summer Program Director; Tutor; Principal/School Administration

SLD Read, MI

2011-2016

Trainings/Courses Taught: Phonics Fundamentals; Picture This; Engage Their Brains; Phonological Awareness; Assessment.

Responsibilities & Roles: Community Outreach Director; Training Manager, Grand Rapids and Northern Region; Assessment Specialist; Education Services Specialist, Grand Rapids Region; Master Tutor; Trainer for IMSLEC Accredited Courses.

PRO-ED, INC.

2016-Present

Field Examiner

Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI

2012-2014

Adjunct Instructor

Courses Taught: Special Education Methods and Curriculum

Kelloggsville Public Schools, Wyoming, MI

1995-1996

4th Grade Teacher, Northwest Elementary

Service Learning Coordinator; Liaison to Non-Public Schools; District Writing Committee

Certifications

- Michigan Professional Education Certificate

Elementary K-5 All Subj (K-8 Self CC)

English (BA) 6-8

Social Science (CX) 6-8

- Google Certified Educator Level 1
- IMSLEC Tutor Certification

Current Professional Memberships

- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan