

August Newsletter

2017

Welcome to the Team!

As our SfL team grows, we are able to expand in our areas of expertise and support.

Michelle Lee, Clinician & Reading Specialist

Areas of Focus:

- Early Literacy
- Reading Fluency & Comprehension
- Written Expression
- Early Math
- Critical Thinking
- Organization & Study Skills

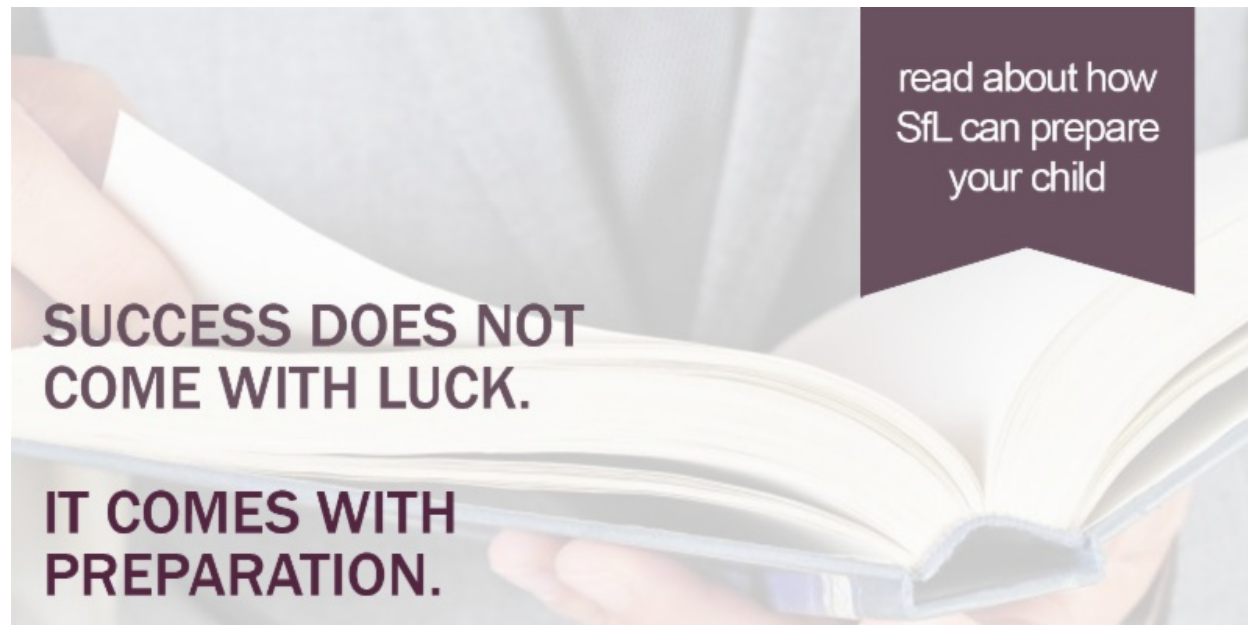
Michelle holds a B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine and obtained her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University, Long Beach.



Michelle is an inspired literacy specialist with fifteen years experience in both private and public schools. She has served in a range of communities from the Bay Area to Orange County and has taught multiple subjects across grade levels, with a focus on early literacy. Her teaching style is characterized by careful and deliberate modeling of respect for and understanding of each student's individual learning style, needs and spirit.

In her spare time, Michelle enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time at the park with her three-year-old niece and her dog, Lolly.

[Read about our SFL Team Members](#)



Proven Test Strategies for Students with LD

For students with learning disabilities, middle school, high school and college entrance exams are often daunting. The solution to being prepared is developing proven and effective test strategies.

The Benefits of a Test Prep Course

- Individualized guidance and study plans customized to student's learning style
- Emphasis on strategies over content
- Advocacy and practice of special accommodations (if your child receives test accommodations, it is important to practice them. Think of test prep as a dress rehearsal!)
- Familiarity with test format (time management, proven high-scoring strategies)

Can my Child Qualify for Accommodations?

The most widely-known accommodation for the SAT and ACT is extra time. For the SAT, this can be 50-100% extra time, depending on your documentation. For the ACT, it can be 50% more time, along with other options. Students and parents may be unaware that there are many other accommodations as well. For example, some students are entitled to take the SAT or ACT over the span of several days. Other accommodations include, but are not

limited to, a reader, a scribe, a tape recorder, extra/extended breaks, a distraction-free environment, a large print version, an alternative test format, etc.

The most important factors in obtaining accommodations for college admissions testing are:

- A professionally-diagnosed, well-supported evaluation of a learning disability on file at school
- Records indicating a history of accommodations use
- Timely submission of request and documentation

For complete details on accommodations for college admissions testing, see:

- [ACT Services for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [SAT Services for Students with Disabilities](#)

Tips & Strategies

Quick Tips for Middle School, High School and College Entrance Exams:

1. Learn the instructions for each section before test day. No need to waste time reading them that day.
2. Mark all skipped questions in your booklet, so you can go back to them later.
3. Statements containing absolute words such as always, never, all, none, are usually incorrect since most things in life have exceptions.
4. Don't change an answer unless you're 100% positive you've made an error!

Quick Tips for the SAT

1. Although there is a penalty for wrong answers, this doesn't mean you shouldn't guess. Mathematically, if you can eliminate just 1 of 5 choices for a question, it pays to guess.
2. The more you write, the higher your score. Show calculations, underline important information, show process of elimination, and circle things you don't understand.
3. Writing section: Write an uncomplicated essay. Scorers aren't looking for fancy vocabulary, just sound logic. State your position, support it with several examples, and end with a summarizing conclusion.

Quick Tips for the ACT

1. Answer every single question, even if that means randomly guessing as the clock ticks down. Since there is no penalty for wrong answers, you can only increase your score.
2. Multiply the score you want in each section by $\frac{5}{3}$. This tells you how many questions you need to get right in that section. Always go for the easy questions to build your score.
3. Math section: Always draw a picture for geometry questions, and remember that any pictures drawn for you may not be to scale.

Source: Azarva, Joan M. "Students with LD: Preparing for the SAT or ACT." Smart Kids, www.smartkidswithld.org/getting-help/college-bound/college-bound-students-ld-preparing-sat-act/.



- **Test Specific Support** for college, high school, and independent school entrance exams and essays, including: ACT & SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ISEE, SSAT, HSPT
- **College** applications and essays
- **Targeted Instruction** in reading comprehension, vocabulary, math, writing mechanics, essays and more
- **Customized Curriculum** that can include a thorough review of all content areas or fine-tuning specific areas, and everything in-between
- **Skills Beyond the Test** as students learn time management, study strategies, and how to understand their personal learning style

Test Prep Packages Now Available

Ask about our Discounts

Contact Christine Zhang, Clinic Coordinator:
info@strategiesforlearning.com
510-900-3121

Resources for Test Prep

Books:

- Smart but Scattered by Peg Dawson, EdD, and Richard Guare, PhD
- Barron's SAT Strategies for Students with Learning Disabilities
- Upper Level ISEE: 1500+ Practice Questions By The TutorVerse
- Middle Level ISEE: 1000+ Practice Questions by The Tutorverse
- Princeton Review, Kaplan Test Prep Books

Online:

- Khan Academy (free site offering SAT prep podcasts and videos)
- Vocab Ahead (free interactive online vocabulary site)
- Quizlet (flashcard site that tests on the most common SAT/ACT vocabulary words)
- Free Rice (50 vocabulary levels, allowing students to customize lists to their needs)
- Brilliant (\$7.99 a month, interactive lessons, recommended for visual learners)
- Brightstorm (\$29.99 a month, video instructions and lessons)



 Strategies for Learning