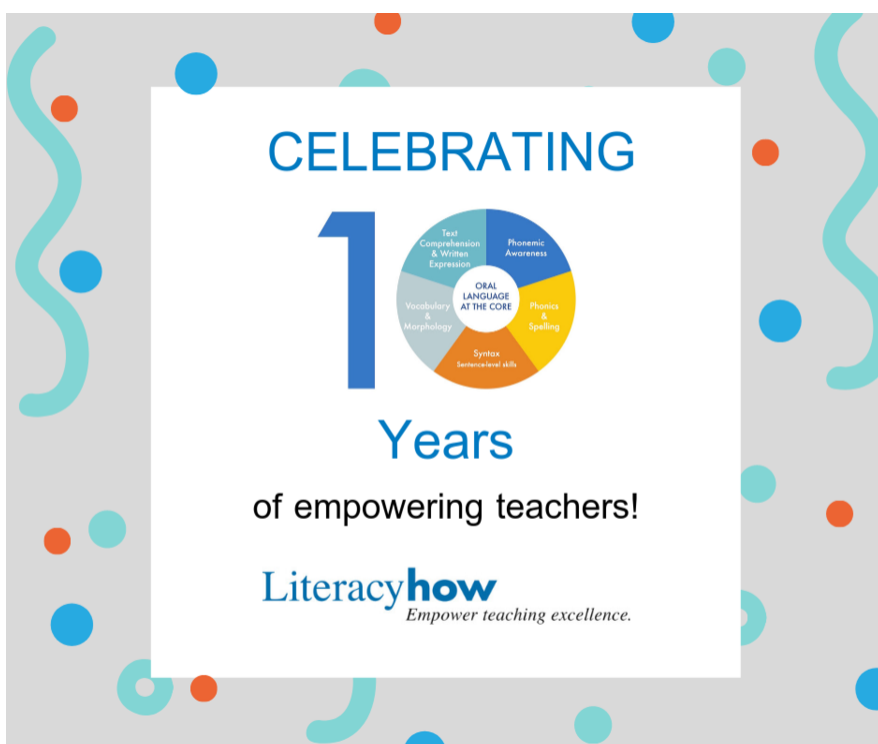


Empowering Excellence, One Teacher at a Time



On July first, we celebrated Literacy How's 10th anniversary. As I reflect on our experiences with thousands of educators, students, and parents over the past decade, during the prior ten years at Haskins Labs, and throughout my 40-plus year career, one idea stands out. Our mission to *empower teaching excellence* remains as crucial as ever.

From strides in [SLD/Dyslexia legislation](#) in Connecticut and around the country, to the discussions prompted by Emily Hanford's award-winning American Public Media reports podcast "[Hard Words. Why aren't our kids being taught to read?](#)" and the implications of screen/e-reading in Marianne Wolf's book, "[Reader, Come Home. The Reading Brain in a Digital World](#)," the need for knowledgeable teachers remains a constant.

Teachers must know how the skills of reading develop, what good readers (and writers) need to learn to become proficient, and how to support students who struggle. I believe that it is the teacher, not the program or curriculum, who teaches the child to read. A skilled teacher can take a weak program or a poorly written activity and make it work. Conversely, an inexperienced and uninformed teacher can be handed an excellent program or a tried-and-true set of materials and use them ineffectively. Teachers must also know how to select and teach vocabulary and how to build background knowledge so that students can comprehend what they are reading.

We need to support teachers not only with knowledge and in their practice, but also with the *belief* that they are empowered to make a difference. [Forward Together](#), a recent report by Understood and the National Center for Learning Disabilities, indicates that most teachers feel otherwise.

As we continue to reach one teacher, one leader at a time, we are driven by the children, who are at the heart of our work.

Thank you for being among the ones who believe in the power of putting knowledge into practice to ensure that every child learns to read by third grade. Here's to the next ten years!

Margie Gillis

P.S. Speaking of knowledge and empowerment, treat yourself to this Brain Science [podcast](#), *The Reading Brain with Marianne Wolf*.



Sign Up for our Fall 2019 Structured Literacy Series!

Click [here](#) to learn more, to download [our flyer](#), and to [register](#) for this popular 30-hr series! Seating is limited.

Check out IDA's new Structured Literacy [Fact Sheet](#).



Toot Your Own Horn and You Might Lunch with Margie!

Don't be shy. Send us your Success Stories for the chance to be a winner in our 10th Anniversary drawing! [Here's how](#).

 www.literacyhow.org

 203-239-7323

 [Send us an Email](#)

Our mission is to *Empower teaching excellence* to ensure that every child learns to read by third grade.

Literacy How is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

101 Merritt Blvd. Suite 210 | Trumbull, CT 06611 US

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.