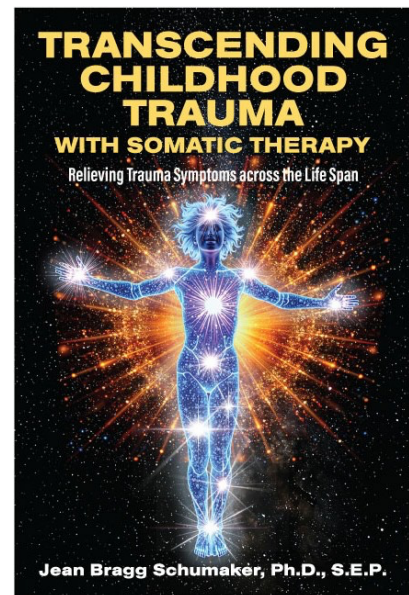


## **Featured Article: New Book from Dr. Jean Schumaker: *Transcending Childhood Trauma through Somatic Therapy***

For more than thirty years, I have been guided by one central question: *Is trauma at the root of some learning problems?* That question launched a long-term research project that is now fully described in my book, *Transcending Childhood Trauma through Somatic Therapy* (Schumaker, 2026).

To carry out this research, I invited volunteers who had experienced traumatic events to work with me using a relatively new trauma therapy called Somatic Experiencing" (Levine, 2008). Participants agreed to meet with me weekly for at least six months, to work with me individually, and to allow me to write about their experiences if I ever chose to publish a book. There was no exchange of money; neither I nor the participants were paid. Over the past 32 years, this work has allowed me to collaborate with many children, adolescents, and adults who experienced trauma during childhood. This book represents the culmination of that deeply personal and professional journey.



[Click here to read the full article](#)

## SIM News

- **New SIM Canvas Course!** - [Word Mapping Strategy](#)
- **Registration is up for the [2026 Fall SIM Virtual Update Conference – Oct. 2026](#)** This will be both a synchronous and asynchronous virtual event, occurring over several evenings throughout the month.
- **[Project iSTAR is recruiting secondary writing teachers](#) to partner with us in shaping the future of writing instruction for adolescents with disabilities. [Fill out this form if you're interested.](#)** Participating teachers will receive an honorarium for their time and expertise.

### ***Who We're Looking For:***

- 3 or more schools willing to participate
- 3-5 teachers per school
- Teachers in grades 6-9 who teach writing
- Each teacher must have at least 3 students with IEPs

### ***The iSTAR platform is a teacher-led program that includes:***

- Supports for Multiple SIM Writing Interventions: Sentence Writing Strategy, Paragraph Writing Strategy, Writing with a Purpose Routine (new)
- A Student Interest Inventory that generates personalized writing prompts
- Automated writing feedback and scoring
- Teacher, Student, and Family dashboards for progress monitoring and communications
- Opportunities for teachers to test features and offer feedback to improve the user experience

### ***Projected Impact:***

#### ***By participating, teachers contribute to a long-term effort to:***

- Improve ASWD performance on local writing assessments
- Strengthen family-school engagement in writing development
- Expand access to high-quality, adaptive writing instruction nationwide
- Support sustainability through SIM professional development and micro-credentialing.

## ***Recent Publications by KU CRL Staff and SIM Network Members - Our Network has been BUSY!:***

- **Smith, Sean** & Carreon, Adam. (2025). Special education teachers' use of AI to support students with disabilities in writing. *Frontiers in Education*.
- Therrien, William & Wong, Vivian & Chen, Ling...& **Faggella-Luby, Michael** ... (2026). Science Instruction for Students With Learning Disabilities: A National Survey of Elementary Special Education Teachers. *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice*.
- **Boudah, Daniel** & Sasscer, Michael. (2025). Building Community Resilience and School Readiness Post-Covid. *International Journal of Arts, Humanities & Social Science*.
- Charles, Shea & Gelbar, Nicholas & Madaus, Joseph & Lyman, Dukes & **Faggella-Luby, Michael**. (2026). Global perspectives on educating blind and visually impaired students in higher education: a review of the literature. *Frontiers in Education*.

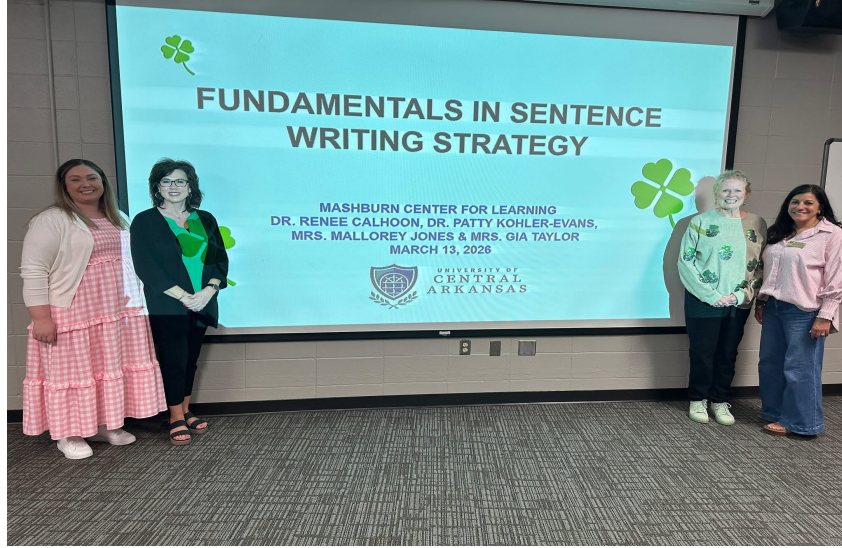
- McClain, Suzanne & Dahl-Leonard, Katlynn & Cook, Bryan & Goncalves, Bruna & Tatel, Stephanie & **Kennedy, Michael** & Therrien, William. (2026). Reading interventions with school-aged learners with autism: A systematic literature review and quality assessment. *Research in Autism*.
- Mosher Ph.D., Maggie & Schmaltz, Katie & Carreon, Adam & **Rowland, Amber**. (2026). AI in Education: From Research on Safeguards to Practical Classroom Implementation and Progress Monitoring Agenda.
- Lopuch, Jeremy & **Chris, O'Brien**. (2026). Authentic Assessment Using Concept Mapping in Multiple Modes of Instruction for a Special Education Teacher Education Course

## **SIM in the Field**

- iSTAR Research - Suzy Myers and Bonnie Palasak traveled to Montana in March, and Jocelyn Washburn and Bonnie were in Virginia in April to work side-by-side with teachers and students as they tried out the iSTAR adaptive-writing program. Thanks to all for their time and feedback!



- The UCA Mashburn Center for Learning was thrilled to welcome 36 ELSE students for an intensive professional learning opportunity focusing on the SIM Fundamentals of Sentence Writing Strategy in March.



- KU CRL Researchers have been busy presenting research and learning at Conferences in March and April.

### KU CRL in Action

Researchers at Work

At the 2026 CEC Conference, Amber Rowland and Jocelyn Washburn shared four CRL research projects with educators and researchers from across the country. A powerful week of learning, collaboration, and innovation.

Creating Solutions to Educational Challenges since 1978.

**KU** CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON LEARNING  
The University of Kansas

### Project Spotlight

KU CRL Researcher, Suzy Myers, Ed.D. had a great experience at the National Council for History Educators Conference, where she joined a meeting for our Teaching with Primary Sources grant funded by the Library of Congress. CRL's team is partnering with PBS News Hour Classroom to develop new resources that help middle and high school students more confidently analyze and understand the primary sources featured on their site. Excited for what's ahead as we support stronger historical thinking in the classroom!

**KU** Life Span Institute  
Center for Research on Learning

### Reminders and Support:

- Are you planning ahead for a 2026-27 Reading Intervention? [Let us know how we can support you with Xtreme Reading](#)- Together we can help students thrive!
- Don't forget to [report your PD Work](#) - we don't care if it isn't recent!

### Looking for a 2026-27 Reading Intervention?

Are you planning ahead for a middle or high school reading intervention?

**KU CRL's Xtreme Reading program is research-backed, classroom-tested, and proven effective.**

Let's help students thrive!



[sim.ku.edu](http://sim.ku.edu)



### More Resources and Media Picks:

- Check out all of the [Featured News](#) from our Parent Organization, KU Life Span Institute. There is some great research happening to improve lives!



### Events for SIM Professional Developers and Specialists:

- [2026 Content Literacy Leadership Institute \(CLLI\)](#) for potential professional developers

Elevate your expertise and become a Strategic Instruction Model (SIM™) Professional Developer

Our Content Literacy Leadership Institute runs June-October, offering hands on learning, collaboration, and leadership development.  
Register by March 1 to secure your spot

[sim.ku.edu/CLLI](http://sim.ku.edu/CLLI)

- [2026 Fall SIM Virtual Update Conference - October 2026](#) *This will be both a synchronous and asynchronous virtual event.*

### FREE SIM Resources:

- [SLANT \(2nd Edition\) Manual](#)
- [Teaching Content to All Manual](#)
- [Professional Learning Micro-credentials](#) for teachers
- [SIM CROSSWALKS](#)
- [2025 SIM One-Page Flyer](#)
- [Handout with quick links to SIM resources](#) (crosswalks and websites)

### SIM Courses for Educators:

[Course First!](#) - Learn 4 SIM Content Enhancement Routines with this new online class designed to strategically integrate CERs across an entire course to support the full learning journey.

[Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change](#) - A Six-Part Course Designed to Support School Teams in Implementing a Systematic Approach to Adolescent Literacy to Dramatically Impact Teacher and Student Performance

### [SIM Online Classes for Educators:](#)

- Content Enhancement Routines:
    - Concept Comparison Routine
    - Concept Mastery Routine
    - Cross-Curricular Argumentation Routine
    - Framing Routine
    - Unit Organizer Routine
  - Learning Strategies:
    - Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy
    - The Inference Strategy
    - The Paragraph Writing Strategy
    - Possible Selves Strategy (1st or 2nd edition)
    - Sentence Writing Strategies (Fundamentals and Proficiency)
    - Understanding Academic Language
    - NEW Apr 2026 - Word Mapping Strategy
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KU Center for Research on Learning 1200 Sunnyside Ave, Haworth 3107  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045 [simpd@ku.edu](mailto:simpd@ku.edu)  
785-864-0626

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