

Cris Skinner

BA Philosophy and English Literature

- Diplomat, Centro Internazionale Studi Montessoriani, Bergamo, Italy
- Orton-Gillingham Training with Dorothy Blosser Whitehead
- International Dyslexia Association, Member
- Language Skills Therapy, Orton-Gillingham Practitioner
- Center for Effective Reading Instruction, Certificate of Achievement
- Language and Literacy Fund at Portland Community College, Instructor

Cris Skinner was born in rural Maryland outside Washington, D.C. and had a wonderful, wild childhood of daily horseback riding and exploring, much to the dismay of her proper and decorous mother. She never truly committed to education until she studied at the original Montessori training center in Bergamo, Italy. That launched Cris.

Upon coming home Cris worked at a variety of Montessori settings in San Francisco, Cleveland and Portland, mixed in with founding Children's House primary school in Littleton, New Hampshire. Montessori work in Portland was followed by a fellowship for graduate study at Portland State and teaching at Catlin Gabel School for a number of years.

As Cris was leaving Catlin, she fell under the "spell" of Dorothy Blosser Whitehead, who trained so many of the Orton-Gillingham practitioners in Oregon. If her devotion to Maria Montessori got her started when she was young, working under Dorothy really brought her to the core of education, or as close as she can get to it.

Over the years Cris has augmented her professional dyslexia training with attendance at the Greenwood Institute in New England and the Academic Tutoring Center in Kelowna, B.C.

Since the late 1990s Cris has worked as a tutor under the auspices of Language Skills Therapy in Portland. At this point she has tutored more than 300 students, ranging from beginning school to adults. She currently co-teaches with Julie through the Language and Literacy Fund at PCC Cascade.