

## *Susan Farra*

BS Nursing (RN)

- Orton-Gillingham Training with Dorothy Blosser Whitehead at PSU
- International Dyslexia Association, Member
- Language Skills Therapy, Orton-Gillingham Practitioner and Board Co-Chair
- Language and Literacy Fund at Portland Community College, Instructor

A native Oregonian, Susan Farra returned from California with RN and BS degrees to begin working as a Community Health nurse for Multnomah County. It was at that time she became interested in adult education opportunities and taught evening childbirth and infant care classes for many years at Providence St. Vincent Hospital and also as a Red Cross volunteer. In 1998, after a stint of volunteering as a classroom aide in a GED preparation class at Portland Community College, her interest was piqued regarding the most effective way to help adults advance their reading skills. Almost serendipitously, Susan was connected by a friend to a two- year course in Orton-Gillingham taught by Dorothy Blosser Whitehead, an Orton Fellow, and her colleagues. With that OG training course completed, she joined Language Skills Therapy in 2000. Language Skills Therapy is a non-profit group of therapists devoted to offering Orton-Gillingham based remediation to dyslexic readers. As a member of this group, she currently works with a number of children individually. Additionally, for the last three years Susan and Julie have given the workshop “The Orton-Gillingham Approach to Teaching Reading, Spelling and Writing” at the Portland Literacy Council’s annual conference. Susan is also one of the Instructors with the Language and Literacy Fund at Portland Community College where she co-teaches a class for students who are in need of improving their reading and spelling skills.