

## OUR GOAL

The Learning Abilities Program was created to provide an opportunity for children and adolescents with academic and/or emotional difficulties that are impacting their daily functioning. The program was designed to provide diagnostic, academic/tutorial and therapeutic services to maximize functioning. We work closely with parents and teachers to incorporate coping techniques to work effectively with the children.

The mission of the Learning Abilities Program is to focus on individual strengths and abilities. Partnering with the Opening The Doors Program, we work to create hope, promote independence, enhance self-esteem, and provide skills to facilitate learning success.

## OPENING THE DOORS MISSION

The Opening the Doors Program, nationally recognized, enables 1,200 children and adolescents with learning differences and abilities to participate in a quality, inclusive Jewish education with their peers and siblings. Working in partnership with schools, educational and health organizations, Opening the Doors' special educators, classroom assistants and para educators provide learning support to enhance students' knowledge, skills, independence, peer interaction and self-confidence. Professional development, community conferences, and a teen leadership program provide disability awareness and resources for families, educators and professionals which empower, engage and include.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Ellen Maiseloff, MA  
Senior Director, Opening The Doors  
Consultant, Learning Abilities Program  
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## LOCATION

Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
The Berman Center of Jewish Education  
27375 Bell Road, Southfield, MI 48034  
Mondays & Thursdays by appointment

*Alternate locations may be used  
We do not accept insurance.*



# Jewish Community Center's Opening The Doors Program Ambinder-Lyness Learning Abilities Program



## ABOUT US

The "Learning Abilities Laboratory" was established in the 1960's by Walter Ambinder, PhD. He initiated a clinic for metropolitan Detroit children. Primarily, it was a diagnostic and therapeutic environment for people who were struggling to succeed in the educational system, as well as other aspects of their life. Sandra Lyness, PhD later took over the direction and guidance of the program.

Dr. Lyness and Dr. Ambinder both strongly believe that all individuals, despite financial or other difficulties, deserve services and resources that will allow them to live their best life.

## PROFESSIONALS

The Learning Abilities Program is comprised of psychologists, academic specialists and encourages a "teaching approach" that includes interns from local universities. As a result, interns are often a part of the evaluation and intervention process under the direct supervision of a fully licensed psychologist.

## PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL SERVICES

### Assessment may include:

- Cognitive Assessment
- Academic/Achievement
- Social/Emotional
- Clinical/Developmental History
- Mental Health Disorders
- Classroom Observations
- ADHD Assessment
- Intervention Strategies & Recommendations
- Parent interpretation



**Services Available at Additional Fees**  
Subsidies available for qualifying families

**Multi-Disciplinary Tutoring**  
For secular subjects

**Direct Collaboration with Schools**  
Parent and Community Resources

**Informational Seminars**  
For Parents, Teachers and Professionals

**Psychotherapeutic Planning and Referrals**

### Founder:

Walter Ambinder z'/, PhD, JD, LP



**Co-Founder & Co-Director:**  
Sandra L. Lyness, PhD, LP



**Co-Director:**  
Meghan Pace-Slot, PhD, LP



**Opening the Doors**  
**Senior Director & Consultant:**  
Ellen Maiseloff, MA

