FACULTY

Stephanie Al Otaiba, PhD, is a professor in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University and is currently serving as the Centennial Chair in Teaching and Learning. She was previously an associate professor at the Florida State University and a faculty associate of the Florida Center of Reading Research. Prior to receiving her doctorate from Vanderbilt University, she was a special educator for more than 13 years. She conducts an active line of research funded by the Office of Special Education Programs, the Institute for Education Sciences, and the National Institutes of Health. She has published more than 120 articles and chapters related to her research interests – early literacy interventions for students with or at-risk for disabilities, response to intervention, and teacher training. In 2017, Al Otaiba received the Distinguished Career Award from the American Educational Research Association’s Special Interest Group. She teaches graduate courses related to reading research, assessment, instructional design, and response to intervention. She is the editor of the Journal of Learning Disabilities. She is the current president of the Division of Learning Disabilities for the Council for Exceptional Children and serves as an executive board member for the International Dyslexia Association.

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Miriam B. Ortiz, PhD, received her doctorate in education and human development from Southern Methodist University in 2017, with a focus on special education and Response to Intervention. She moved to Dallas from Tallahassee, Florida, having been a K-12 teacher for students with severe behavior and emotional disabilities. Ortiz has worked closely with Dr. Stephanie Al Otaiba and Dr. Jill Allor to improve reading skills and achievement of struggling students and students with disabilities. Her current research interests include improving academic outcomes for children with or at risk for disabilities as well as assisting struggling readers of all ages using the Response to Intervention model. Ortiz has been co-author on several peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters on the topic of reading instruction for students with varying disabilities.

Financial Disclosures
- Employee of Southern Methodist University

Nonfinancial Disclosures
- Member of Council for Exceptional Children, International Literacy Association, and Division for Learning Disabilities