

WHAT IS DYSLEXIA??

*A reading disorder characterized by trouble with reading despite normal intelligence. This is a BRAIN issue, not a vision issue.

*Presents itself in one, two, or all three ways - trouble with letters, numbers, and/or directions.

*1 in 10 people are dyslexic, in varying degrees. It can be so mild that it's never diagnosed, or incredibly severe.

*Problems may include difficulties in spelling words, reading quickly//fluently, writing words, "sounding out" words in the head, pronouncing words when reading aloud and comprehension of what is read.

- Is late to recognize letters
- Has trouble rhyming
- Has difficulty listing words that begin with the same sound
- Is slow to learn the sounds of letters and letter combinations
- Has difficulty recalling the sounds of letters and letter combinations rapidly
- Has trouble learning to recognize words
- Has difficulty learning to decode unknown (nonsense) words
- Reads slowly and/or in a word-by-word manner
- Is reluctant to read
- Difficulty in phonemic awareness
- Has weak spelling
- Has little to no comprehension of what they read
- Writes far less than other children, often skipping whole words in a sentence.

*With the proper intervention, children with dyslexia can learn to read, but this will take YEARS, and will always be a struggle.

*41% of all inmates are dyslexic. When not diagnosed, accommodated, and encouraged, they feel only failure/discouragement, and shame - leading to dropping out of school - leading to a life of crime - leading to imprisonment.

*People with dyslexia use their right brain more than average, often finding success in the fields of art, computer science, design, drama, electronics, math, mechanics, music, physics, sales and sports.

*Some famous dyslexics in these fields are:

Steven Spielberg, (Director), Mohammed Ali (Boxer), Magic Johnson (Basketball), Tom Cruise (Actor), Albert Einstein (Inventor), Pablo Picasso (Artist), Steve Jobs, Jay Leno, Walt Disney, Thomas Edison, John F. Kennedy, and George Burns - who said, "For me, the toughest thing about dyslexia was spelling it."

Some strategies:

*Dyslexics need "think time" before answering a question. The same part of the brain that has the dyslexic part also has the processing part, and they often have to search for the answer....but it's there! This can be done by presenting a question and then pausing or by coming back to the student after a little while and repeating the question.

*Give manipulatives (things to touch and move around) whenever possible to work on math related to time, money, or fractions.

*Allow the student to use text-to-speech software for information on the computer.

*You can help them improve penmanship with a larger pen or pencil grip and raised-line paper.

*Encourage students to use a line guide as he/she is reading, to avoid skipping lines.

*Use cut-out window for completing math worksheets.

*Whenever possible, use single step directions that aren't overly complex..

Complicated instructions, with multiple steps to remember and follow aren't easy for dyslexic students to remember and follow through with. If multiple step instructions are used, train the dyslexic students to number the steps.

*Whenever possible, give the student a copy of the notes - by the time they try to copy down one problem, you've done 3 more, and they've learned nothing.

*Whenever possible, allow the student to take the test ON the test, as transferring information is difficult.

*Use any color other than white for worksheets/forms used in class.

*Unless the student volunteers, never call on a dyslexic student to read aloud in front of classmates. Making them read aloud won't help lessen the impact of their learning disability and will only serve to shame and embarrass them.

*The best way for a dyslexic to read is usually with their ears, just like blind people use their fingers to read. Use audio books for as much as possible, but let them follow along as well, which will heighten sight word recognition and give further exposure to words.

*There are many talk-to-text apps available so that a dyslexic person can speak what needs to be written. The writing process can be long and laborious. For assignments where the CONTENT/knowledge is more important than actual pen/paper writing skills, this is especially helpful.

*Since they are auditory learners, a Tubaloo is a great learning tool!

***I once heard someone say: *“Well, it is **READING**, so they have to read”*

My internal thoughts went a little like this: Well, let me hand you a one page document, written in a foreign language, move it non-stop, then expect you to read it, comprehend it, and write about it.

Awesome website: <http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/>

Ben Foss has a law and business degrees from Stanford, and eventually became the Director of Access Technology at Intel.

He says, “For starters, let me tell you that when it comes to dyslexia, most people focus on reading or spelling. They could instead focus on shame. Shame is a feeling that you’re unworthy because of something you *are*. When Intel launched its reader for dyslexic people, a device I invented, one of the biggest websites around went with the headline “Intel launches a reader for the lazy and the infirm.” Dyslexic people aren’t lazy - they have a disability that can be helped with today’s awesome technology.

*****Here is a sample of Ben Foss’s writing BEFORE it is edited multiple times:

a big part of being successful when you are dslexic is being able to engage people whenwho don;t knwo much about dyslexi in a conversation. I liks starting with some stats. Dyslexics are 10 percent of eople , 35% of entrepreneurs and 41& of prisoners. People nod their heads when you say tn persent, they cock the head of the sdie when they hear 35% and they ier eye widen in genuine suprise when they hear 41%. The three number tell a story about our communiti and they will provide a conversation about our community, which is really your goal. A good gag line follwoing this is to say “Of cours, pentrepreneurs and prisoner s are not mutually exclusive!” Thy this out on someone you are just meeting and I will be you get a big smile.