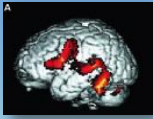
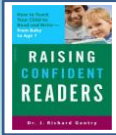


Understanding and Overcoming Dyslexia in Light of Reading Science

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SURVEY

- 1) How many kids in your school are dyslexic?
 - A. 1 in 5
 - B. 2 in 100
- 2) Are more boys dyslexic than girls?
- 3) Does dyslexia run in families?
- 4) Which statement is true?
 - A. Many dyslexics end up in prison.
 - B. Many dyslexics are successful in life.
- 5) Can dyslexia be cured?

How I became an expert on dyslexia.

1. What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a biologically-based condition that makes it difficult for beginning readers to learn to read.

In laymen's terms, the typical [brain organization](#) for reading and spelling does not function normally in dyslexic children even though they may be very smart.

In Plain Language: 5 Big FAQ's About Dyslexia

"In 1969 I was a sophomore ..."

5 Important Questions and Answers about Dyslexia

Let's start with a little quiz. Let's find out what you know and what you don't know.

Trouble learning to read and to spell

Dyslexia is brain-based but its cause has nothing to do with [intelligence](#). Simply put, kids who are dyslexic have **trouble learning to decode [print](#) and to spell (encode)**.

Dyslexia is **not a comprehension disorder**; however, if one can't read words, one can't comprehend.

2. How common is dyslexia?

Nobody knows. Recent studies suggest that 1 in 5 people have neurologically-based processing difficulty for learning to read. Brain scientists are often saying about 10%.

Part of the difficulty in determining the incidence of dyslexia is that dyslexia manifests itself across a continuum: some cases are mild, others severe. Dyslexia is the most common learning disability.

5. Do people with dyslexia see words backwards?

Probably not. The science on this issue is muddled.

Most recent studies associate dyslexia's causal factors with early difficulties in letter-sound processing (phonological processing deficits).

3. Does dyslexia run in families?

Yes. It has a genetic origin. It's biologically and neurologically based so familial occurrence is not surprising.

If you are dyslexic, it's likely that half of your brothers and sisters are too.

Screening for Dyslexia

Know the symptoms—which students to screen

Recognize that **symptoms are not a diagnosis**.

Refer to a specialist...

Educators are not equipped to diagnose neurological processing disorders.

4. Are boys more likely to have dyslexia than girls?

Yes. Recent studies debunk a popular myth and report that dyslexia is just as common in girls as in boys.

Classic Early Warning Signs in Early Childhood (Symptoms)

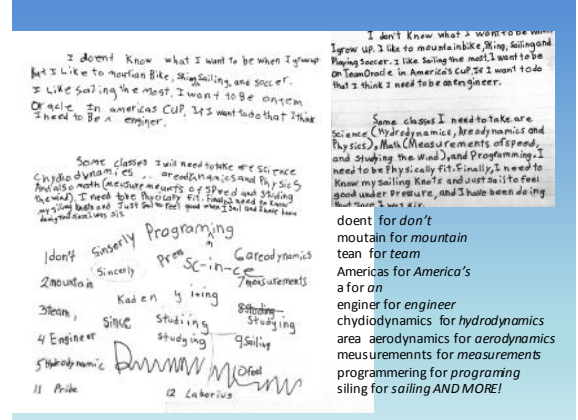
- Speech delay—Language isn't occurring as it should. Receptive is language fine. Expressive language is delayed.
- Saying sounds in the wrong sequence—Odd pronunciations
 - P-sketetti, am-i-nal, em-iny, a-lu-ni-mum, (dyslexia), fus-trated
- Word retrieval
 - Trouble finding the word they want to use—"You know, that thing?"
- Trouble with rhyming words
- Trouble with phonemic awareness
- Trouble with invented spelling
- A history with family members with reading problems

Adapted from Susan Barton <https://bartonreading.com/the-barton-system-is/>

Classic Warning Signs—School Age Children

- Difficulty memorizing arbitrary sequences: days of the week, months of the year,
- Spelling their own name
- Learning their address
- Learning their phone #
- Learning *names* of the letters
- Learning the *sounds* of the letters
- Multiplication tables
- How to tie shoes (Age 6 or 7 or later)
- Issues with dominance—right handed or left handed [Normal—4 years old—Dyslexic—7, 8, 9 years old—Dyslexic—mixed dominance]
- Difficulty with written expression
- Slow reading rate
- Poor handwriting skills
- Poor test taking skills
- Terrible spelling
- Difficulty reading musical notes from a score

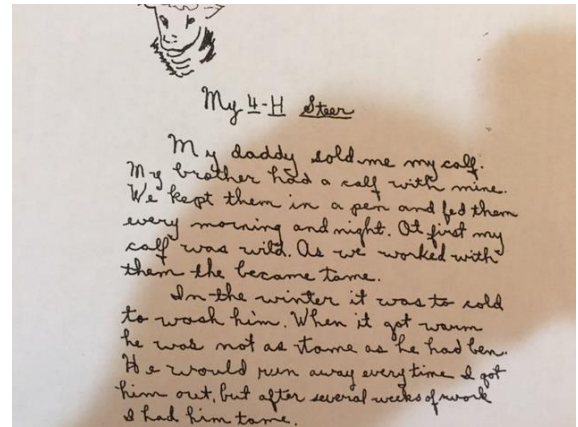
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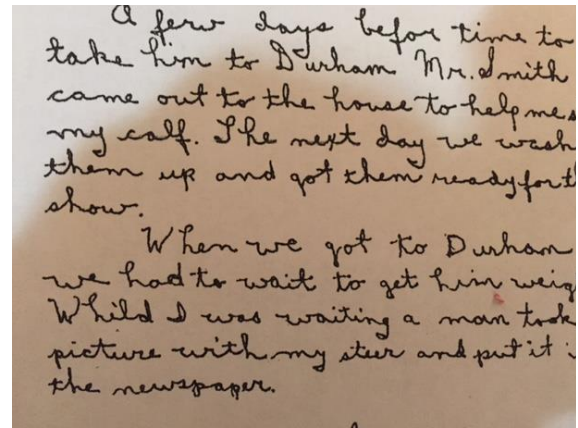
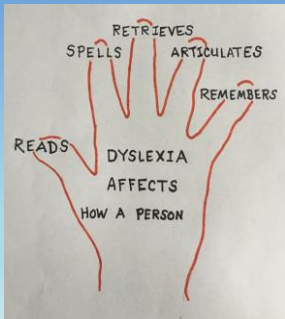
Classic Warning Signs for Young and Older Adults

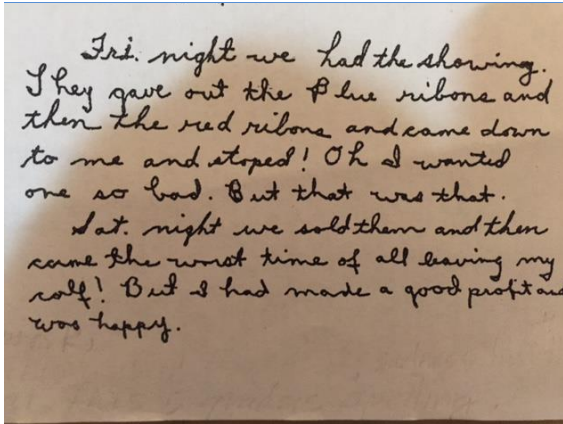
- Struggling with academics in school
- May compensate by working harder
- Lifelong struggles with spelling
- Fear of reading out loud
- Difficulty with written expression
- Slow reading rate
- Poor test taking skills
- Difficulty with foreign languages (most colleges waiver)
- Bad with sense of direction/trouble with left and right/bad with driving directions/sense of directionality

Adapted from Susan Barton <https://bartonreading.com/the-barton-system-is/>



5 Ways Dyslexia Affects a Person





How can schools help children with dyslexia?

- Intervene early.
- Teach phonics linked to phonemic awareness.
- Teach spelling explicitly. Spelling and brain words ignite the reading brain.
- Begin teaching writing in preschool and kindergarten.
- Teach handwriting including manuscript for beginners and cursive beginning in second grade.
- Embrace repetition because the brain loves repetition for almost every skill.
- Don't ever give up on children with dyslexia.

Fifth-Grade Disabled Speller

The for *they*, to for *too*, ben for *been*, weighted for *weighed*, ribbons for *ribbons*, and stoped for *stopped*.

(All previously mastered for spelling test.)

He reads: "What project did you **select**?"

He writes: I SOLLECTED a steer...

7 Ways to Accommodate Children with Dyslexia in Regular Classrooms

J. Richard Gentry PhD

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201611/7-ways-accommodate-dyslexics-in-regular-classrooms>

How can parents help children with dyslexia?

1. Understand what dyslexic is.
2. See what help is available in school.
3. If possible get a tutor who understands dyslexia.
4. Find a school that understands your child's strengths.
5. Recognize that dyslexia is not a reflection of intelligence or effort. Many successful people overcome dyslexia.

1. Allow children who may have dyslexia to demonstrate their competence.
2. Change your seating arrangement to address dyslexic students' difficulty with organizing, managing time, following teachers directions, filtering out background noise.
3. Use a research-based grade-by-grade spelling curriculum as a dyslexia-specific intervention.
4. Teach handwriting.

5. Expect to give those with dyslexia more help with proofreading for spelling.
6. Be sensitive during foreign language study.
7. Make appropriate accommodations.
 - Substitutions for foreign language requirements
 - Books on tape and recordings
 - Recognizing that dyslexia can be a gift

Understanding dyslexia may help people avoid problems later in life.

While most people with dyslexia do not have psychological and emotional disorders, research shows they are disproportionately at greater risk for the following (Cosden, Patz, and Donahue, 2010):

- Low [self-esteem](#)
- High anxiety
- Difficulty reading social cues (Ryan, 2004)
- Poor social relationships
- Depression
- Likelihood of [substance abuse](#) including drugs, tobacco, and [alcohol](#) (Cosden, 2001)
- Poor understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses (California Dyslexia Guidelines, 2017)

Advocate for all students who struggle with dyslexia.

- Compassion for students who are struggling
- Not mistaking dyslexia as a sign of inferior intelligence or laziness
- Recognizing that students with dyslexia also have strengths—some experts even suggest dyslexics are gifted and have special talents—such as thinking outside of the box, being creative, entrepreneurial, artistic, and athletic.

Gifts found in people with dyslexia:

Some experts present evidence that dyslexics are gifted beyond what is found in non-dyslexic individuals and often have special talents:

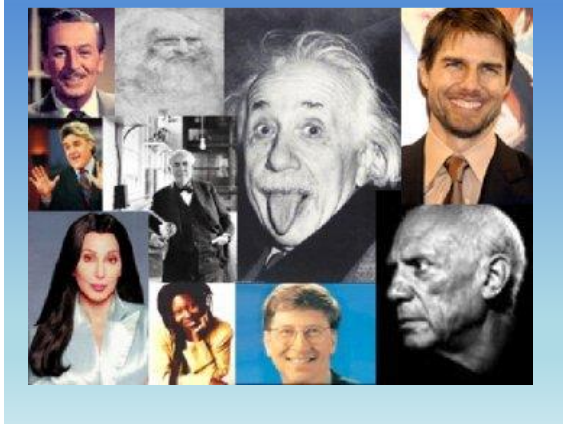
- Thinking outside of the box
 - Visualization in three dimensions
 - Being creative, [entrepreneurial](#), artistic, and athletic
- Dyslexia can lead to [positive life skills](#) that are developed within oneself such as grit and resilience, being optimistic and in-tune with one's passion, taking positive risks and getting the job done, all qualities of "the entrepreneurial spirit" (Ehrlichman, 2015) which seems to be in great abundance in millennials.

What's It Like to Be Diagnosed at 24 Years of Age?

- Emily-Ruth's dyslexia diagnosis included the following:
 - [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\)](#) — it is common for dyslexia and ADHD to co-occur.
 - "Double-deficit dyslexia"—a more severe form of dyslexia—based on the theory that Emily-Ruth demonstrated deficits in both phonological awareness and rapid naming speed. Auditory [memory](#) and sequencing skills were reported to be at a fifth-grade level.
 - [Dysgraphia](#). Emily-Ruth's crate included outstanding samples of talented writing at every level of schooling, yet there was early evidence in first grade of symptoms of dysgraphia such as difficulty spacing things out on paper or within margins, inconsistency in letter and word spacing, and unfinished words or missing words or letters.
 - A "severe degree" of Irlen Syndrome, a perceptual processing disorder for light, color, and contrast sensitivity, such as difficulty with fluorescent lights, which Emily-Ruth self-reported. The report seemed to imply that this was one of the most important findings.

There were symptoms of all of these in kindergarten and first grade!

If you are dyslexic
keep loving who you
are!



Thank You!

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