Reading Disorders & Dyslexia

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What is a Reading Disorder?

- A learning disorder that involves significant impairment of reading accuracy, speed, or comprehension to the extent that the impairment interferes with academic achievement and activities of daily living.
- This overall diagnosis can be used for deficits in reading decoding AND reading comprehension.
What is Dyslexia?

- A reading disorder is most commonly called Dyslexia, but Dyslexia usually includes deficits in spelling and writing as well as reading.
What is Dysgraphia?

- A specific learning disability that affects a person’s ability to acquire written language and to use written language to express their thoughts.
- It can affect a person’s handwriting, orthographic coding, basic spelling and grammar, and use of incorrect wording.
- It can occur with or without a diagnosis of Dyslexia.
My Story

- Reading Delay
- Attention Deficit Disorder, non-hyperactive
- A Language Learning Disability
How did my story end?

• The College of William and Mary - BS, Psychology

• James Madison University - MS, Communication Sciences & Disorders

• Owner/Director of Maxwell Speech & Language Center
NEVER take NO for an answer.
Reading Developmental Norms

- Pre-Reading, ages 0-4
- Kindergarten, age 5
- 1st and 2nd Grade
- 2nd and 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade through 8th Grade
- High School
Developing pre-reading skills

• Read to your child as much as you can!

• Play silly games with rhyming or sounds

• Have books available about many topics and encourage young children to sit quietly and look at pictures.
Reading Decoding vs. Reading Comprehension

- **Reading Decoding**: Translating the printed word into a sound
- **Reading Comprehension**: Understanding the meaning of words that are written
When to be Concerned

• •
Where to Start

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What Next?
Explaining to my child

- Testing
- What is my difficulty?
- Why is this hard?
- Why should I talk to my child about his/her learning struggles?
My Child Hates to Read!

• Independent Reading: help them to choose books on topics that THEY find interesting

• Reading to your child: choose a book or novel that is at or above grade level and interesting to your child

• School Reading: help your child narrow down choices to 2-3 acceptable books and ask them to choose
• **Remember** - your child may NEVER like to read, and that is ok. Your job is to arm them with the necessary tools to do the job the best they can. Reading for pleasure is NOT necessary. Being able to read well enough to get the job done IS necessary.
Self-Esteem

- Talk about learning differences
- Develop character and resiliency
- Validate
- Support interests and talents
- Monitor your child’s social circle
Research Based Methods

- Lindamood Bell Programs: LiPS, Seeing Stars, Visualizing & Verbalizing
- Orton-Gillingham
- Alphabet Phonics
- Phonographix
Assistive Technology

- Listening to books
- Learning Ally
- Overdrive through the public library
- Kindle, Nook, iPad
- Dictation on the computer for writing
- Typing
Apps for Reading

• Reading Raven
• ABC Mouse
• Bob Book Series
Computer Programs

- Earobics
- Hear-Builder
- Starfall
Books for kids

• **The Alphabet War: A Story about Dyslexia** by Diane Burton Robb

• **Tom’s Special Talent - Dyslexia** by Kate Gaynor

• **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullally Hunt

• **I Have Dyslexia; What does that Mean?** by Shelley Ball-Dannenberg
Books for Parents

- **Overcoming Dyslexia**
  Sally Shaywitz, MD

- **Dyslexia, The Gift**
  by Ronald D. Davis

- **The Dyslexic Advantage**
  by Brock L. Eide MD, MA
Online Resources

- eida.org (International Dyslexia Association)
- Understood.org
- kidshealth.org
- ASHA.org
- LDonline.org
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QUESTIONS