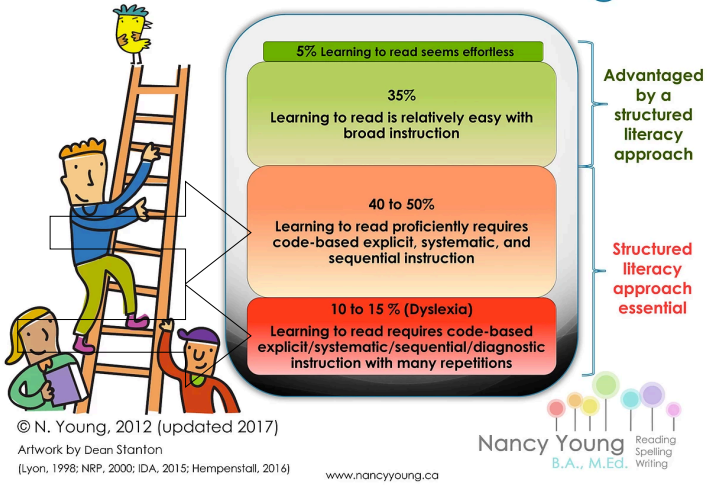


DYSLEXIA

The good.
The bad.
The ugly.

Sonya Yates, CALT
Certified Academic Language Therapist
Saraland City Schools

The Ladder of Reading



The major problem
is not a
research gap, but an
knowledge and
action gap.

"90% of children with reading difficulties will achieve grade level in reading if they receive help in the 1st grade. 75% of children whose help is delayed to age 9 or later continue to struggle throughout their school career." (Vellutino, Scanton, Sipay, Small, Pratt, Chen & Denckla, 1996)

“

It takes four times as many resources to help a student resolve a literacy problem in Year 4 than it does in Year 1....

Early identification of reading difficulties is important.



SPELDNSW

DYSLEXIA FACTS
DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

Do we really need to
#SayDyslexia?

If we won't even say the word,
how can we ever possibly
hope to address it?

What is dyslexia?

Word analysis:

dys -

lexia

dys - difficulty or lack of
lexia—with words or language

Dyslexia as defined in the Alabama Administrative Code

Dyslexia is a specific learning challenge that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with **accurate** and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often **unexpected** in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.

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It's a chair.



It's a chair!

It's still a chair!



And it's still a chair!



b

d

p

q

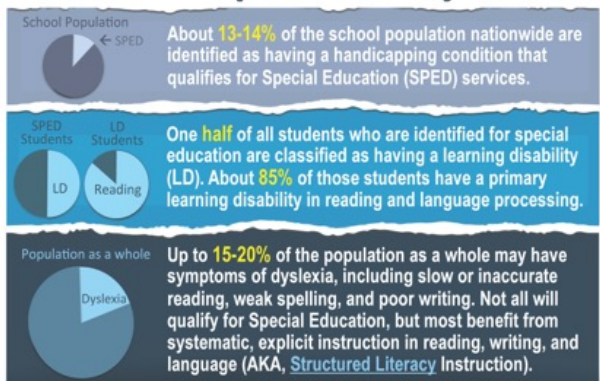
Ever wonder what your dyslexic child is thinking when they say: "but Mom, the b and the d are exactly the same letter!"

What causes dyslexia?

1. The exact causes are still unknown.
2. We know that dyslexia often appears to be inherited, but not always.
3. Anatomical and brain imagery studies show differences in the way the brain of a dyslexic person develops and functions.
4. Chromosome research
5. Lack of teacher knowledge in foundational reading skills

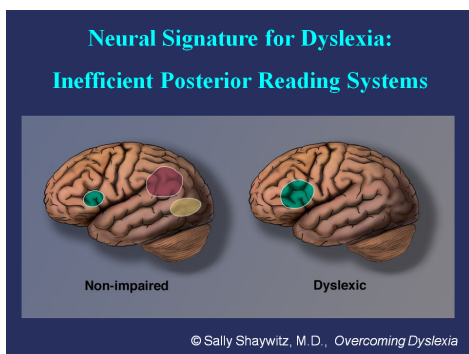
MSLE/SARA Training

How widespread is dyslexia?



Find solutions at the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) • ida.org
Source: IDA Fact Sheet, "Dyslexia Basics" • Moats & Dakin (© 2016 Cowen For IDA)

Brain Scans reveal differences in non-impaired and dyslexic brain activity.



**We assume if you're
smart you'll be a
good reader.**

**Dyslexia violates
that assumption.**

~ Dr. Sally Shaywitz

What happens to students who don't learn to read?

- Higher rates of unemployment
- Lower wages and/or income
- Reduced ability to read for information
- Poorer health levels
- Lower civic engagement
- Lower levels of professional achievement
- Prison

The hard truth is that we are more willing to spend money to put illiterate Americans in prison than we are on teaching them to read. Why?

Literacy as a social justice issue

Think about it:

When someone cannot read, they are excluded from many of the things that allow us to be fully functional citizens with choices.

Those who are illiterate can lack access to information, are excluded from making choices about their rights or government through voting, and have fewer opportunities for employment.

Illiteracy keeps people trapped in a cycle of poverty and subjugation, limiting life choices and making it difficult to achieve social mobility.

**Literacy truly is power—
power over one's own life.**

Dyslexia: Hiding in Plain Sight

“Less understood and more prevalent than realized and holding the key to students’ reading performance”

“Dyslexia often can be prevented or lessened with the right interventions, opening up opportunities for many who have repeatedly experienced failure in school and life.”

SHELDON BERMAN AND SARA B. STETSON/School Administrator, August 2017

Teacher Education

I became angry... I felt betrayed. I felt misled....

Why was I never taught about dyslexia? ...

Why is the science of reading being largely ignored?

Why wasn't I told that there was a method that would reach ALL learners and not just the top 40%?

Why aren't teachers given this vital information?

Hard Words

Why aren't kids being taught to read?

By Emily Hanford
NPR



- The students who suffer most when schools don't give their students insight into the code are kids with dyslexia.
- If you're a child with dyslexia from an upper-income family, someone is probably going to notice that you're struggling and pay for you to get the help you need.
- But kids from poor families often get left behind, and there's evidence that a disproportionate number of them eventually end up in the criminal justice system.
- American prisons are full of people who grew up in poor families, and according to a study of the Texas prison population, nearly half of all inmates have dyslexia. They struggled to read as kids and probably never got the help they needed.

What works?

- Simultaneous use of more than one sense modality in learning
- Curriculum builds upon concepts as they are taught
- Assumes no prior knowledge from the student (normal student needs 10-15 times of practice to 'get it', a dyslexic student needs 500-1500 pairings!)
- Content must be mastered to the degree of automaticity
- ABC concept – Accuracy Before Comprehension!

Alabama

- Approximately 160 teachers have been trained as dyslexia therapists. Every school system needs one.
- Dyslexia is a hot topic in Alabama and other states.
- Research has proven students benefit from structured literacy instruction.
- Many schools were not given guidance on how to implement the AAC amendments.
- LETRS training offered through a grant from the Department of Early Childhood.
- Unfunded mandate - Dyslexia was put into the AAC, but was not funded.
- Teachers need background knowledge on the science of learning to read.
- Failure to identify and address reading challenges, including dyslexia, in a timely manner negatively impacts reading outcomes for many children in Alabama schools.
- Invest in teacher training, not boxed kits.

#SayDyslexia
#RedeemingRed
#1in5



"This is the best work that we've ever done."

Questions?

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