Dyslexia: Myth Busting & Soul Saving

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dyslexia: dys (difficulty) + lex(word) + ia (condition of)

We now know it is much, much more!!
Biologic - Genetic - Neurologic
Neurologic differences

- Brain symmetry (equal)
- Nerve cell density (tighter)
- Nerve column connections (broad connections in dyslexia; narrow in autism)
Normal vs Dyslexic Reading
MRI studies at MIT & Boston Children’s Hospital
Left Brain

- Details
- 2D (letters/ #s)
- language
- linear thought
- automaticity

Right Brain

- Big Picture
- 3D (pictures/ideas)
- emotions/ senses
- concepts/ rules
- experience
PIG
The
b dp q
Automaticity

Put your left finger on your right ear.
True or False?

\[ L + VIII \times IX = C \]
3 common dyslexic issues:

- Decoding
- Working memory
- Processing speed
Process or Content?

L + VIII × IX = C

What are you testing?
Myth busting:

My son can’t be dyslexic because reading is one of his strengths, and he loves to read for pleasure!
Gifted Dyslexics = **Stealth Dyslexia**

Their silent reading comprehension of long passages is usually quite good.

Their compensatory skills are so good that they will fool you until the work gets too hard.

“guess and go” strategy
Is your child good at...

- building things? creative problem solving?
- relating concepts and reasoning? seeing connections?
- great vocabulary?
- art work...with more interesting ideas?
- strong experiential memory?
- 3D mental rotation abilities?
Challenges...you or your child?

- Spelling problems?
- Handwriting sloppy?....Dislike the task of writing things by hand?
- Rote memory (remembering lists)
- Sequencing (instructions, directions)...getting out the door!
- “time blindness” ...and hate timed tests?
- R/L orientation
- Hate reading out loud?
- Need to read difficult text several times to understand it?
The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.

- **It is Genetic!!** (50-85% of relatives): Parents of gifted dyslexics:
- **Science/Math**: Engineering, Computers, Economics, Mechanics
- **Communication**: Management, Business, Sales, Coach, Teacher, Counselor, Veterinarian
- **3D**: Pilot, Artist, Athlete
Gifted dyslexics

Stealth Dyslexia:

Dysgraphia with poor spelling in a child with gifted-level oral language abilities will usually be dyslexic. (>85%)

Gifted children with unexpected problems with reading, writing or spelling always require a comprehensive evaluation that looks at auditory, visual, sensory-motor, language, and memory function because appropriate intervention requires accurate assessment.
Dyslexia and ADHD

- 20% of people are dyslexic
- 5-10% of people have ADHD
- 1/3 of all dyslexics also have ADHD
- 2/3 of all people with ADHD are also dyslexic
Montessori & MIT

- Montessori schools attract dyslexic kids: “whole child learning” - “community/world/big picture” - “learning at your own pace/multi-age classes” - “parent selected”
- Montessori data: estimated to be 30-45% dyslexics
- MIT: estimated to be 40% dyslexics
- NASA actually tests for dyslexia to HIRE dyslexics!
They know something is wrong, they just don’t know what or why.

ADD
ADHD

anxiety

SHAME

Frustration

Boredom

Rage

sadness
Camouflage...

- Hide at any cost...better to explode, shut down, run away than expose the inability to read/write = “stupid”
- PTSD : chronic negative stress - We remember what hurts.
- Chronic cortisol release --> decreases memory and cognition;
- The brain actually changes, creating problems with executive functioning.
Some painful statistics...

- Colorado has one of the highest teen suicide rates in the country AND of the “Successful” pediatric suicides, 60% are children with LD (and 80% of all learning disabilities are dyslexia).

- Dyslexics = 80% of outpatient pediatric psych patients (anxiety / depression / rage / suicide)
More painful statistics

- bullying
- suspension
- drop out rates
- drug use
- prison
- suicides
When to test...

- Any ADHD child
- Any child with behavior concerns: sadness, anger, anxiety
- Family history: sibling or parents
- “Something is up…”
- Gifted children with handwriting/spelling issues
Solutions...

- Screen every child at kindergarten. (20%!!)

- Get testing done for those at risk:
  a) How do they learn?       b) What is hard?

- 1. Celebrate the whole child!

- 2. Use their strengths to let them learn the way they learn.

- 3. Use O-G methods to learn to read/write.
Embrace solutions

- If I told you that in less than 5 minutes I could show you a way to read 5 times as fast and understand more...and it is free....would you try it?

- Text to speech...all laptops/ipads can do it!

- And...Speech to Text (Dragon Speak) - typically “write 3 times as fast and 99% accurately”
Support:

1) The Dyslexic Advantage by Drs Eide;

2) The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan by Ben Foss;

3) Nowhere to Hide by Jerome Schultz, PhD
His teachers said that he was mentally slow, unsociable, and adrift in his foolish dreams.

Albert Einstein

www.ThePowerOfDyslexia.com

Thanks!