

JUNE 2016 ISSUE

Dyslexic Advantage

NEWSLETTER

**Visual Talents
of Dyslexics**

***Why Timed
Guided
Repeated
Reading***

The Belief of Fathers

**Encouraging
Kids to Write**

COOL APPS

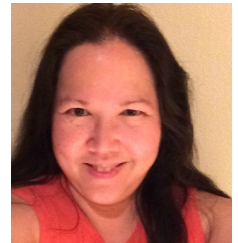
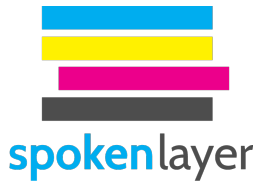
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Strong Motion
Deficits in Dyslexia

FREE STUFF
Reading Tutoring Resources

**DYSLEXIA
MIND** BEHIND

MACGYVER





Dear Friends,

Congratulations to all new graduates and to all the Fathers who make such a difference in their sons and daughters' lives.

Brock and I just returned from Landmark College's Summer Institute where we talked about exciting changes in our understanding of learning differences and how dyslexic minds have been powering innovation in different types of work.

We're also happy to announce that starting with this issue, we'll be going to a publishing Dyslexic Advantage magazine more frequently, roughly every month, thanks to the generous support of sponsors such as Windsor Learning, The Kildonan School, Westmark School, Microsoft One Noet, and Lindamood Bell of Bellevue WA. Please visit their sites to learn more. Each of them is a strong supporter of dyslexic children and their parents and we're proud to have them on our team.

Premium Subscribers, please check out the wonderful Writing Webinar from Dr. Nicole Swedberg - former teacher and now PhD Education Expert and popular writing coach, Nicole makes writing instruction easier for everyone. Watch it [HERE](#). Thanks for your support! ~ Fernette

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GO PREMIUM

Say Dyslexia at the
Capitol in Washington D.
C. July 11, 2016



Don't Forget to Check out Research
Opportunities [HERE](#).

Also Recommend a Dyslexia Tutor
[HERE](#). Updated continually!

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PREMIUM PREVIEW

The Belief of Fathers



Happy Father's Day!

This post is for all those great fathers who never lost sight of the young men or women their children could become.

Here's a story from the past – some of the experiences will sound familiar:

"Several of my uncles and aunts had tried to teach me to read, and because they could not, and because I was much older than children who read easily, had come to think, as I have learnt since, that I had not all my faculties... I remember nothing that I read, but only those things that I heard of or saw."

"My thoughts were a great excitement, when I tried to do anything with them, it was like trying to pack a balloon into a shed in a high wind. I was always near the bottom of my class and always making excuses..."

Sometimes we had essays to write...I never got a prize, for the essays were judged by handwriting and spelling."

With such an inauspicious start, many might be surprised that this person not only chose a career in writing, but he also is now known as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century.

Who is this? This is William Butler Yeats, Nobel Laureate in Literature.





"My Father read out poetry for the first time when I was eight or nine years old. Between Sligo and Rosses Point there is a tongue of land covered with coarse grass that runs out into the sea or the mud according to the state of the tide. It is the place where dead horses are buried. Sitting there, my father read me the Lays of Ancient Rome. It was the first poetry that moved me."



This was William Butler Yeats, a young man who struggled greatly with reading and writing and started art school.

But he managed to cultivate a love of writing and he credits his father with instilling his first love of poetry.

His father would take him out to a beautiful wild area in Ireland where he would recite heroic poetry to him and Yeats developed a love of it.

What a rich multisensory way of learning - the words, the sea, the wild beauty of the landscape.

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World Says Goodbye to Sports Legend Muhammad Ali

One of the world's greatest sporting figures, Muhammad Ali passed away last June 3, 2016. He was the world's only 3x heavyweight boxing champion and Olympic Gold Medalist. He had a record 56 wins – 5 losses.

Ali was dyslexic and had difficulty graduating from high school because of his problems reading. Ali and his wife Lonnie were involved in charitable activities and helped create a literacy program that would inspire more African American children to read.

"Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing."



"If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it - then I can achieve it."

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The Real Dyslexic Mind Behind *MacGyver*

MacGyver's making a comeback and CBS just posted its first look (bottom next page). If you grew up in the 80's, you'll know MacGyver as a secret agent who managed to engineer ingenious devices with simple homemade materials. If MacGyver reminded you of a dyslexic engineer in your home, you shouldn't be surprised that there was a great dyslexic mind behind the MacGyver series (and also it's comeback!). It's none other than.... Henry Winkler!



The series revolved around MacGyver, whose main asset is his practical application of scientific knowledge and inventive use of common items—along with his ever-present Swiss Army knife. The clever solutions MacGyver implemented to seemingly unsolvable problems—often in life-or-death situations requiring him to improvise complex devices in a matter of minutes—were a major attraction of the show, which was praised for generating interest in the applied sciences, particularly engineering, and for providing entertaining story lines. All of MacGyver's exploits on the show were ostensibly vetted to ensure a basis on scientific principles (even though, the creators acknowledged, in real life one would have to be extraordinarily lucky for most of MacGyver's ideas to succeed).

Henry Winkler (or Sir Henry Winkler, as he has received the Order of the British Empire) talks about his dyslexia from the great interview for the Archive of American Television. In the second half, he talks about how hands-on he really was, pitching the original idea, reading all the scripts, working with the writers, and eventually casting Richard Dean Anderson.

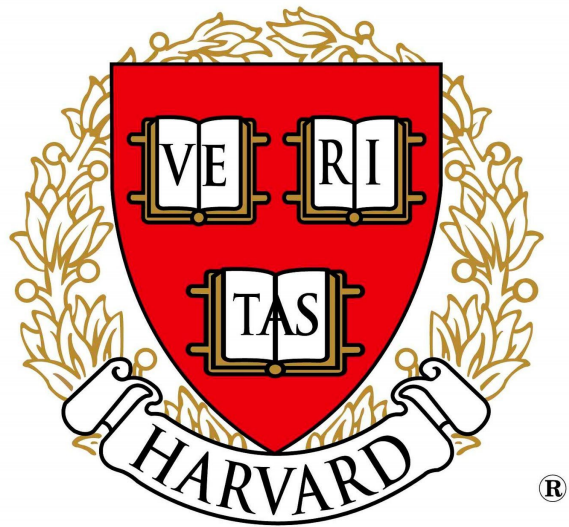


Go [HERE](#) if Video doesn't load.



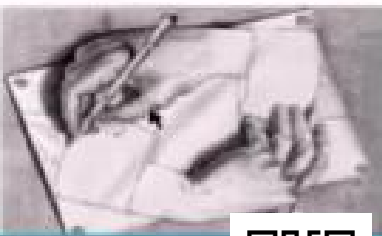
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Harvard Professor Dr. Kurt Fischer on Visual Talents of Dyslexics



Pathways to Reading and Special Skills: Case of Visual Talents

- New Research on *Visual Talents* in Dyslexic Scientists (and others)
- ▶ Matt Schnepps, [redacted] and Kurt Fischer, in *Mind, Brain & Education*
- ▶ Visual Skills of Many Dyslexics
 - Scanning Fields for Patterns.
 - Escher Figures
 - Winner & von Karolyi, Geiger & Lettvin.....



URSAM TIDEN NERVKITTLANDE INLÄRNING
arrangör: Vetenskapsrådet och Rifo



Dr. Fischer talks about the science of visual talents associated with dyslexia.
If the video doesn't play, refresh your browser. You can also view it [HERE](#).



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Martin Scorsese is an Academy award winning American director, producer, screenwriter, actor, and film historian with over 50 years in the movie industry, and he is dyslexic. He grew up in a New York tenement, an asthmatic child of a presser and seamstress in the Lower East Side. He recalls spending lots of time in front of a TV set watching good and bad films and going to a local movie theatre with his father and brother. As he watched, he

Here are some storyboards that Scorsese drew at age 11 as he watched a Roman epic, The Eternal City. He still storyboards all of his movies today but now his storyboards incorporate camera movements and lighting. Click image to view the complete storyboard.

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Dyslexia, Storyboarding, and Film Director Martin Scorsese

"That's the way it is with art. It's not that you want to do it, it's that you have to do it. You have no choice."
– Martin Scorsese



and brother. As he watched, he often drew his own scenes, frame by frame in a notebook, flicking pages back and forth to see the movement. He frequently mentions his dyslexia when talking about his childhood and the fact he grew up in a household with few books.

Scorsese is usually on every list of the most influential filmmakers of all time. Films like *Good Fellas*, *Raging Bull*, *Mean Streets*, *Taxi Driver*, have recurring themes like struggle to find morality in an immoral world, male camaraderie, and violence. Scorsese says that he traces his movies back to the stories and experiences of his childhood. He also has said, "I love studying Ancient History and seeing how empires rise and fall, sowing the seeds of their own destruction." Scorsese's film *The Irishman* appears to be coming together quickly (it will reunite him with Robert De Niro and Al Pacino). The project just received \$50 million downpayment on financing in Cannes.

Scorsese is a master storyteller with dyslexic MIND strengths – his filmmaking and thematic storytelling show all aspects of dyslexic MIND strengths – material reasoning, interconnecting reasoning, narrative reasoning, and dynamic thinking.

COUNT ON YOUR FINGERS

It Helps with Math



When brain researchers tested 8-to-13-year-olds doing 2-digit subtraction in fMRI scans, they saw that somatosensory finger areas lit up, even though the students did not use their fingers. This finger-representation area was, according to their study, also engaged to a greater extent with more complex problems that involved higher numbers and more manipulation. Since then, other researchers have found that the better students' knowledge of their fingers in the first grade, the higher their scores on number comparison and estimation in the second grade. Even university students' finger perception predicted their calculation scores!

Evidence from both behavioral and neuroscience studies shows that when people receive training on ways to perceive and represent their own fingers, they get better at doing so, which leads to higher mathematics achievement. The tasks we have developed for use in schools and homes (see below) are based on the training programs researchers use to improve finger-perception quality. Researchers found that when 6-year-olds improved the quality of their finger representation, they improved in arithmetic knowledge, particularly skills such as counting and number ordering. In fact, the quality of the 6-year-old's finger representation was a better predictor of future performance on math tests than their scores on tests of cognitive processing.

Too bad that "Many teachers have been led to believe that finger use is useless and something to be abandoned as quickly as possible."

Sometimes what comes naturally is right. Thanks Dr. Jo Boaler. To hear more from her about math, watch the webinar she provided.



Erasing Math Anxiety and Designing a New Future With Math

Professor Jo Boaler, Stanford Graduate School of Education



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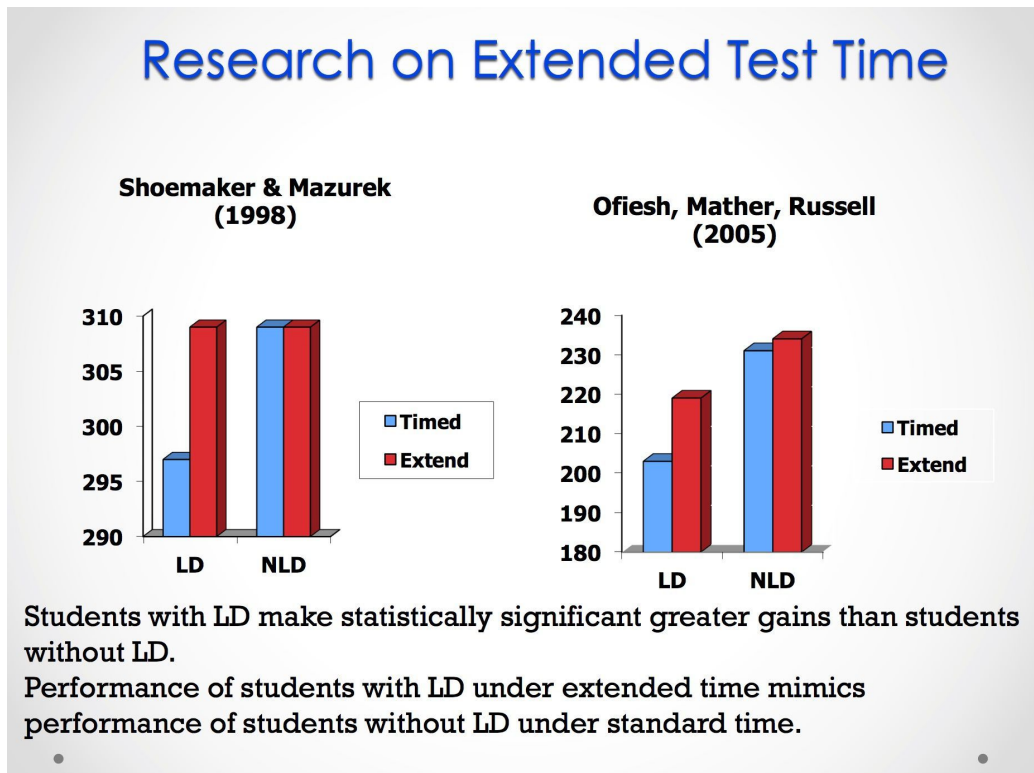


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Should Dyslexic Students Receive Extended Time on Tests? Is it Fair?



Yes and YES. Due to some outstanding work by Dr. Nicole Ofiesh and colleagues, students with dyslexia and other LDs were granted extended time on high stakes tests like the SAT and ACT. What researchers showed was that **only** the LD students showed a significant improvement in their scores. So there is not increased advantage being given to LD students. Non-LD students would not have higher scores. The extra time being given to LD students may allow them to finish reading passages and questions and show what they know.



[Read More](#)

Learn more about Dr. Ofiesh's work on Extended Time by clicking on the photo left.

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This eight-week online course trains tutors, parents & teachers to teach creative writing to high school & middle school students with dyslexia. The next class begins Monday, September 12, 2016 from 9-10 PM Eastern Standard Time. For more information about the class visit www.writerstudio.com contact Rebecca Gee at rebecca@writerstudio.com.



"Dyslexia is a different brain organization that needs different teaching methods. It is never the fault of the child, but rather the responsibility of us who teach to find methods that work for that child." - Dr. Maryann Wolf

FLUENCY: What is Timed Guided Repeated Reading and Why Should Students Do It?

In a recent report in the Journal of Learning Disabilities, Lee and Yoon reported that repeated reading had significant beneficial effects on the reading fluency of students with reading disability. **Listening to the passage first** increased the benefit.

Excerpt: "Reading the passage at least four times increased reading fluency more than two to three times...repetition is a critical variable, and automaticity was based on retrieval (memory) rather than adjustment of reading procedures (e.g. word decoding strategies..."

The listening passage preview with the proper prosody that was modeled by the teachers may have enhanced understanding of text and reduced the moderator of negative emotion (e.g. confusion, anxiety, frustration) presumed or students with RD (e.g. "with listening passage preview there is less anxiety."

N.B. Fluency practice helps with fluency only. It does not take the place of decoding instruction.

Learn more about Repeated Reading [HERE](#). A Standardized Fluency Chart is [HERE](#).





Student Fights Discrimination at Princeton

Rachel Barr, a recently Yale alum had a dysfunction in her assistive technology while taking her exam necessary to complete her PhD... Read More.



Dyslexic Students on the Rise

Good news in TX - identification of students with dyslexia is up by 15,000 students this past year "We are here to meet all student needs in education..."



Favorite Commencement Speech of 2016

The 5 Questions You Should Ask
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Click the Video to Play.



Punished by Opting Out?

Washington Post reports on how parents are finding out how their decision to opt-out of certain standardized tests such as Common Core has other negative effects...



Say Dyslexia Rally in Wasington DC July 11th

Can you come to the Say Dyslexia rally in the nation's capitol? Activities such as these can keep Dyslexia on legislator's minds as they prepare for writing new laws.



North Carolina Weak in Dyslexia Education

Dyslexic Advantage provided its survey data to parent advocates and Decoding Dyslexia who are meeting with educational leaders and legislators in NC.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016

The Westmark Class of 2016 has been accepted to and will be attending the following universities and colleges

American University

Arizona State University
The University of Arizona
Beacon College
Becker College
Beloit College

Berdee College of Music

Bradley University

California Lutheran University

California State University, Channel Islands

California State University, Chico
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles

California State University, Northridge

University of California, Berkeley
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

Champlain College

Claremont McKenna College

University of Colorado at Boulder

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Colorado Mesa University

Columbia College of Chicago

Curry College

Dean College

University of Denver

DePaul University

Drexel University

Emerson College

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Goldsmiths College, University of London

Gonzaga University

Goucher College

Hofstra University

Humboldt State University

University of Indianapolis

Ithaca College

Johnson & Wales University (Denver)

Landmark College

Lynn University

Marist College

Menlo College

Montana State University, Bozeman

Mount Ida College

University of Oregon

Pace University, New York City

Pierce College

Quinnipiac University

University of Redlands

Rice University

Rider University

Rollins College

San Francisco State University

University of San Francisco

Santa Fe University of Art and Design

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Seattle University

Sierra Nevada College

Sonoma State University

University of Southern California

Southern Methodist University

Southern New Hampshire University

Suffolk University

Syracuse University

Temple University

The Los Angeles Film School

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University of Washington

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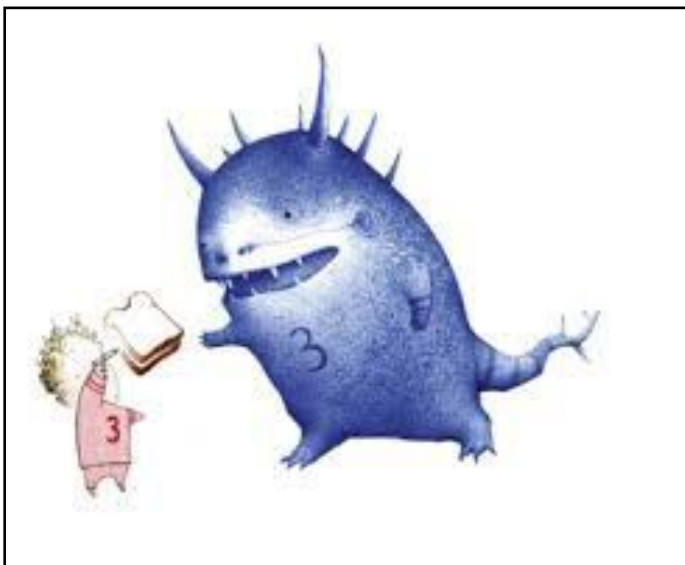
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FREE STUFF

Encouraging Kids to Write



Nice example video of a 4th grade teacher introducing writing revision, elaboration, strong verbs, and more.



Make a Monster Elaboration Lesson
Sensory Detail, Dialogue, and more!
Artwork by Peter McCarty



Why Reading Aloud to Older
Children is Good - from KQED
/ PBS

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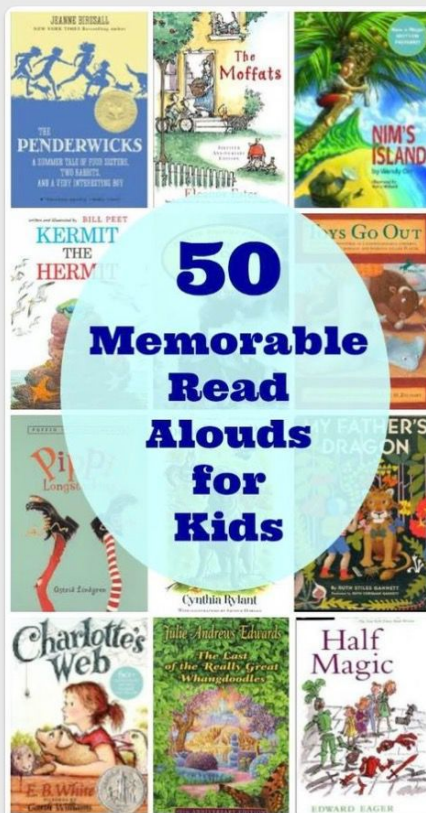


Best First Novels to Read-Aloud with your kids

SM from Sarah Mackenzie

My Favorite First Novels to Read-Aloud with Kids

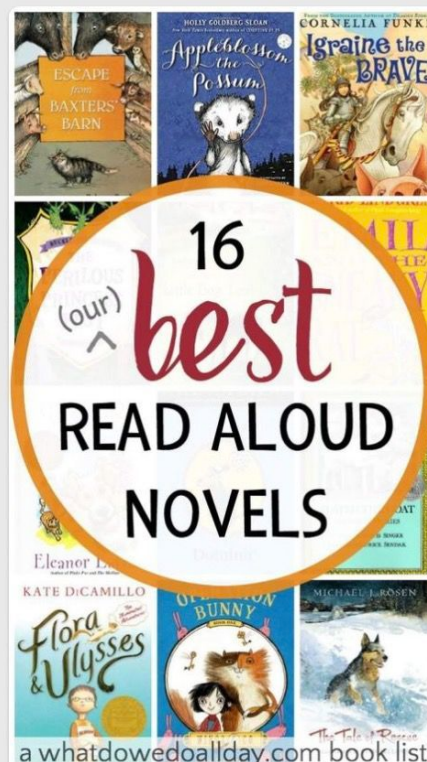
These novels have short chapters, fantastic characters, and easy-to-follow plot lines. What that means?



50 Memorable Read Alouds for Kids

from kcedventures.com

50 Memorable Read-Aloud



16 (our) best READ ALOUD NOVELS

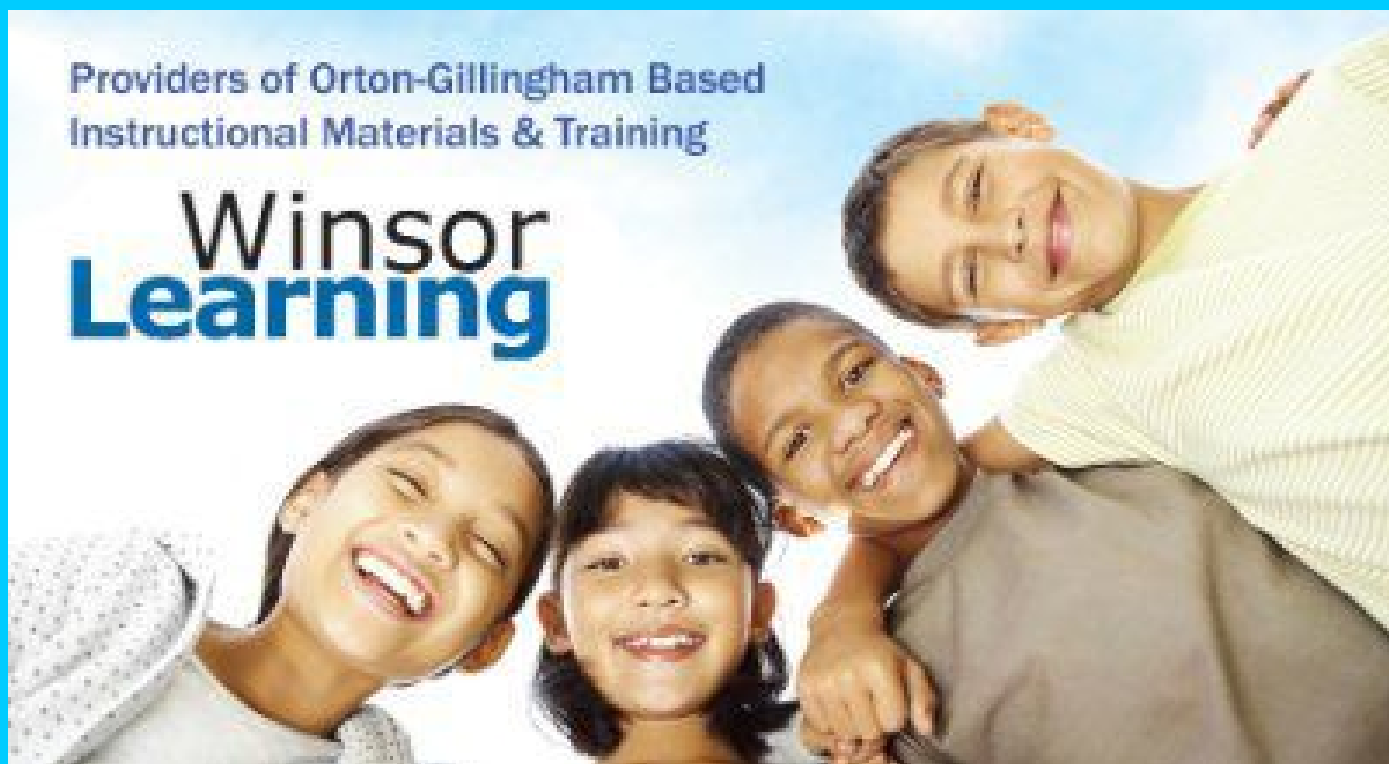
from What Do We Do All Day

(Our) Best Read Aloud Chapter Books of 2015

No need to ever run out of ideas for read alouds with the kids. Check out all these ideas at [Pinterest](#) and check out GoodReads crowdsourced Family Read ALoud List [HERE](#).

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What to Do This Summer

Summer can be a great time for developing strengths and encouraging passions outside the classroom. Some quick ideas for this spring and summer.

1. Let Kids PLAN. Foster confidence, leadership, and executive function by having kids plan and make decisions on family trips or other outings or get togethers. Naturalist and artist Jack Laws recalled the confidence he gained, when he discovered he could read topographical maps as a Boy Scout and when he enjoyed observing nature and sketching on nature hikes with his parents.

2. Build or Make Something. Use those Dyslexic MIND strengths and build something like the toy row boat below.



Need more ideas? Visit [Instructibles](#) or [Make](#) or see this [list](#) of summer activities for kids.

3. SERVE. Summer is a great time to volunteer and to focus on someone or something else's needs.

35 Ideas for Service Projects for Kids.

Sometimes a dyslexic child's super-strength is empathy and concern for others.

Taking on a new cause or helping in someone else's project can embue them with confidence and worth and a positive outlook for the future.



PREMIUM Recent ISSUE



Boys and Dyslexia
Teaching Visual Spatial Learners
Summer Entrepreneur Kids
Dyslexia and **Foreign Language**
Dyslexic Students in General Classroom and MORE

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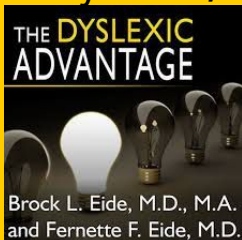
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Free Reading Tutoring Resources



Everyone Reading is offering their **Free One-to-One Reading** tutoring this **SUMMER** at the Museum of the City of New York. Hands-on museum activities will be combined with Wilson Reading methods (Orton-Gillingham multisensory). Students must be 3rd graders who would benefit by foundational reading: Contact phone: 917-903-2648 for more information / application. Also you can email Lorraine at: Lmancuso@everyonereading.org

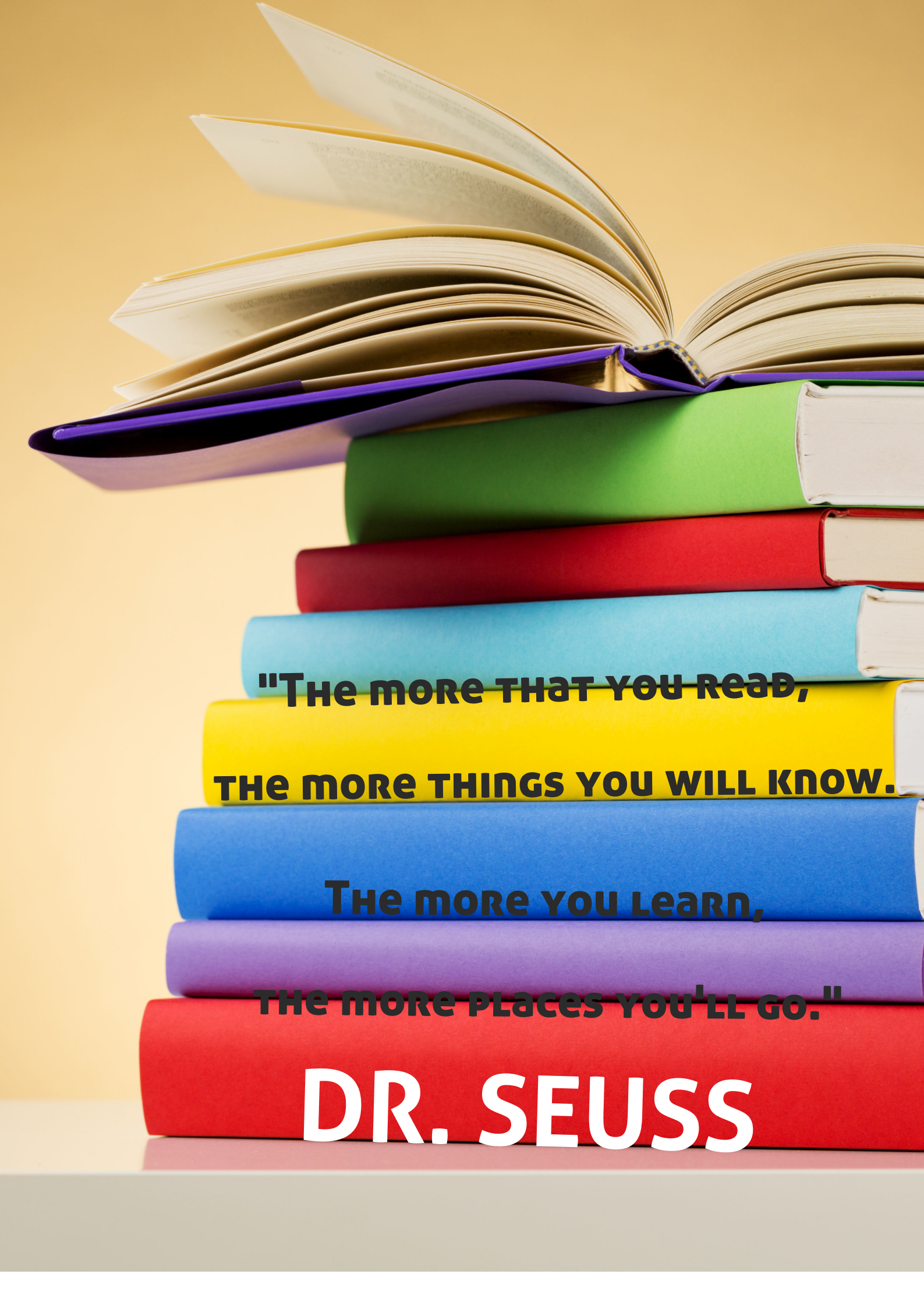
Also if you didn't know, for the past 2 decades, **Scottish Rite Centers** provide free tutoring at 40 Centers in 13 states: Learn more [HERE](#). Sometimes there can be a long wait, however. The states with free Children's Dyslexia Centers are: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, **Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont**, and Wisconsin.



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A stack of seven books in various colors (red, purple, blue, yellow, light blue, red, green) with an open book on top. The background is a warm, solid orange-yellow color.

**"THE MORE THAT YOU READ,
THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW.**

**THE MORE YOU LEARN,
THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO."**

DR. SEUSS

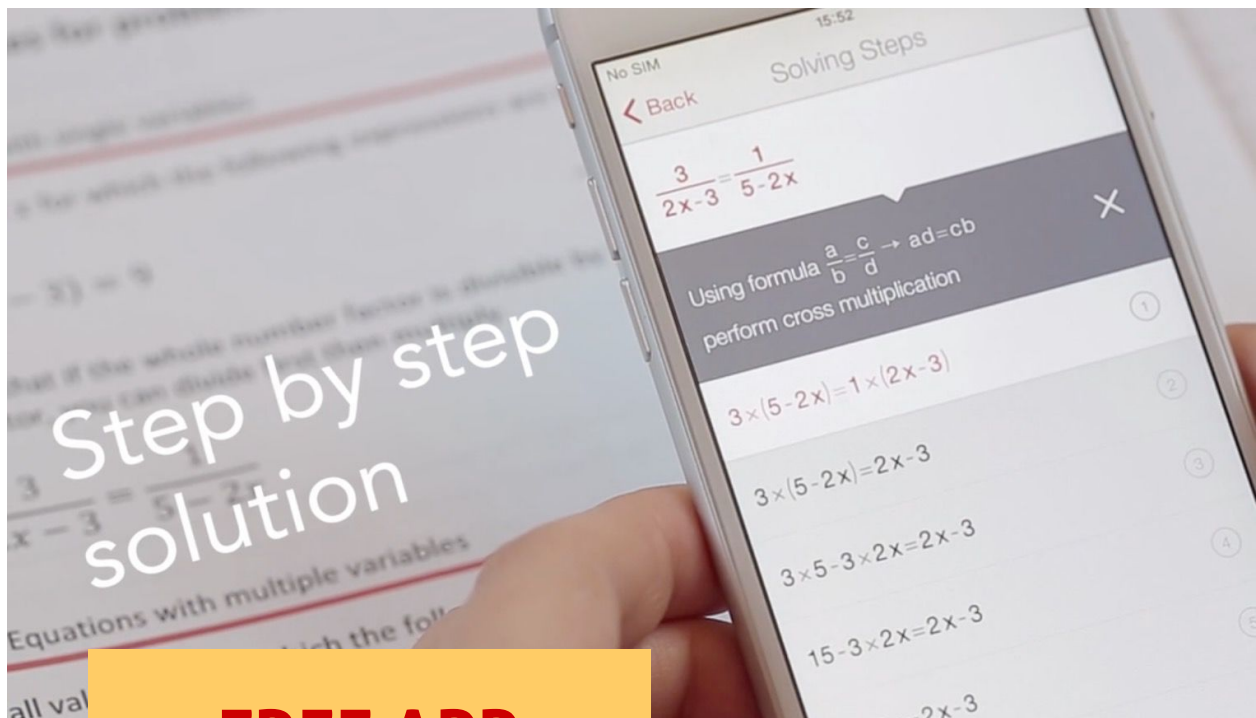
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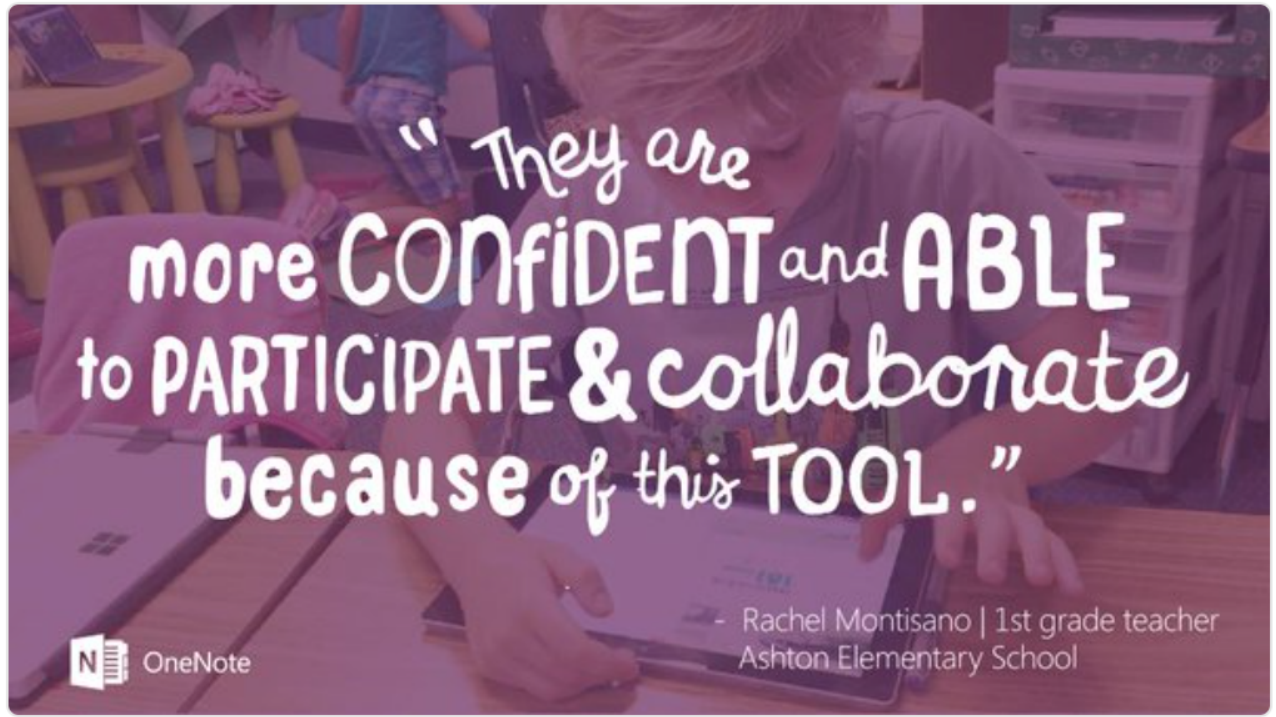
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Linear Equations, Equation
systems, and Logarithms.



Microsoft OneNote has LearningTools that are great if you're dyslexic.
Both OneNote and Learning Tools
are FREE!

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To read articles on the web with less visual distraction, try the free Readability extension for the Google Chrome browser (also free). There are also Android, iPhone, and iPad versions.

Readability is a web and mobile app that reduces distraction while reading on the internet.

It also has Read Now, Read Later, and Send to Kindle functions.





Tales 2 Go has is a leveled subscription audiobook service that has a wide range of popular books read by professional voice talent. Other services may either have higher charges for each audiobook, provide volunteer or digital voices only, or offer books that are not among the most popular childrens book on the market.

Tale2Go costs \$9.99 per month, however there is a FREE 1 Month trial. The free trial makes it easy for parents to have their children try out audiobook reading as the summer begins.

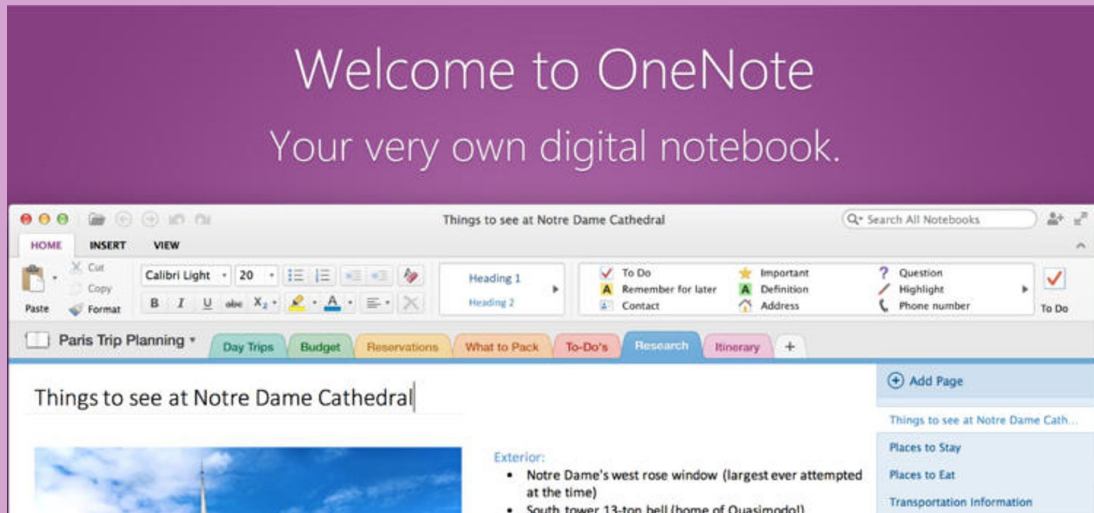
You can always check out the print book so that they can read along with the audiobooks too.

Learn more [HERE](#).

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Microsoft OneNote now offers Learning Tools to improve reading and writing capabilities for all students, especially students with dyslexia.



Download for FREE at: [OneNote.com/LearningTools](https://onenote.com/LearningTools)

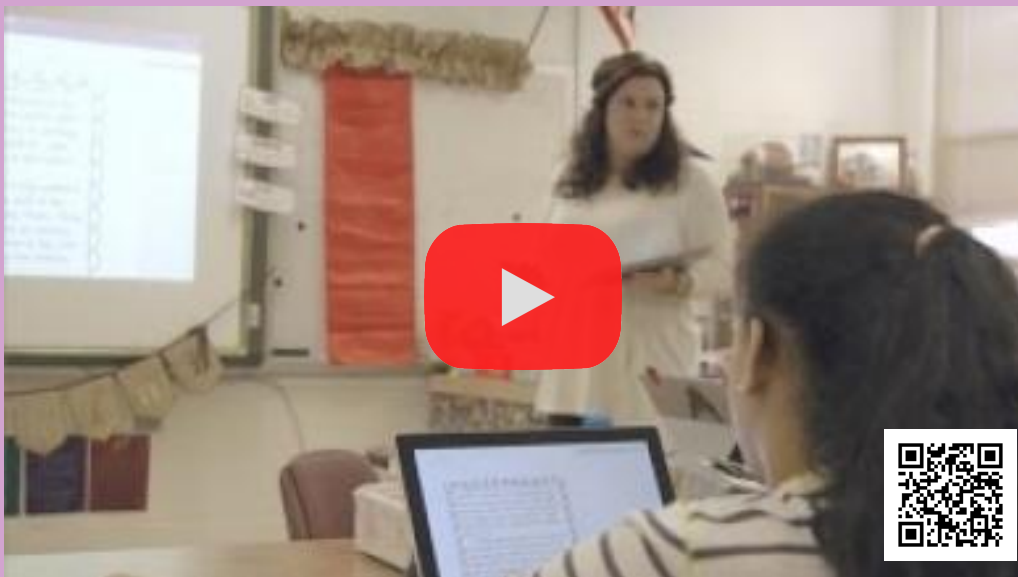
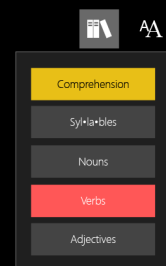
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United States Geography

Class > Geography

The study of Earth's landforms is **called** physical geography. Landforms can **be** mountains and valleys. They can also **be** glaciers, lakes or rivers. Landforms **are** sometimes **called** physical features. It is important **<** for students to **know** about the physical geography of Earth **>**. The seasons, the atmosphere and all the natural processes of Earth **affect** where people are able to **live**.



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Q: Is it Possible for Dyslexia to Get Worse with Age?

Dyslexia does not get worse in a person's twenties...in fact the normal course is that because working memory expands, reading gets... [READ MORE](#)



Q: Can I Be a Doctor if I'm Dyslexic?

Answer: Yes. Absolutely.

There have been many famous physicians who were dyslexic, and many today that you might not know who are dyslexic because many don't identify... [READ MORE.](#)

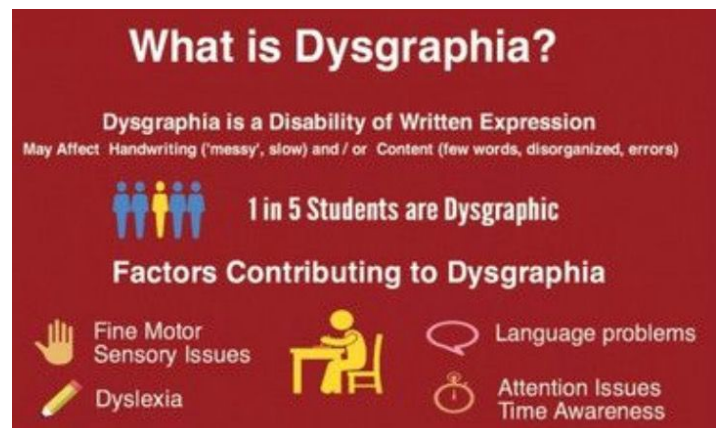
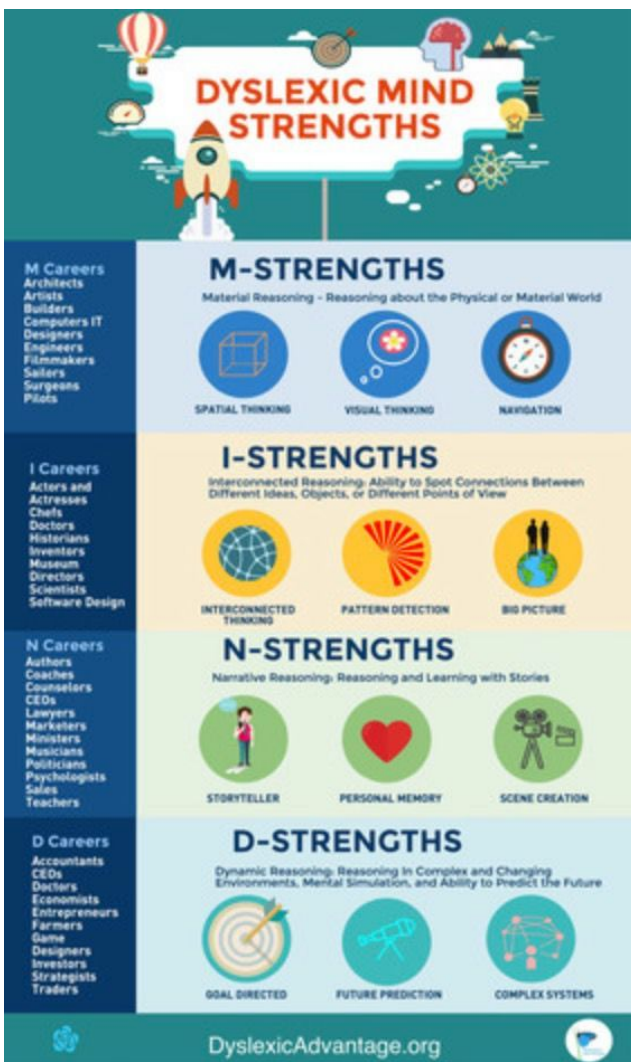


Q: Do We Need to Revoke the IEP?

"My daughter currently has an IEP. We asked that we keep her accommodations of the IEP in place but take a break from the support she is receiving from the resource teachers, with both pull out and push in. We were told that we need to revoke her IEP in order to do this. I am nervous..."

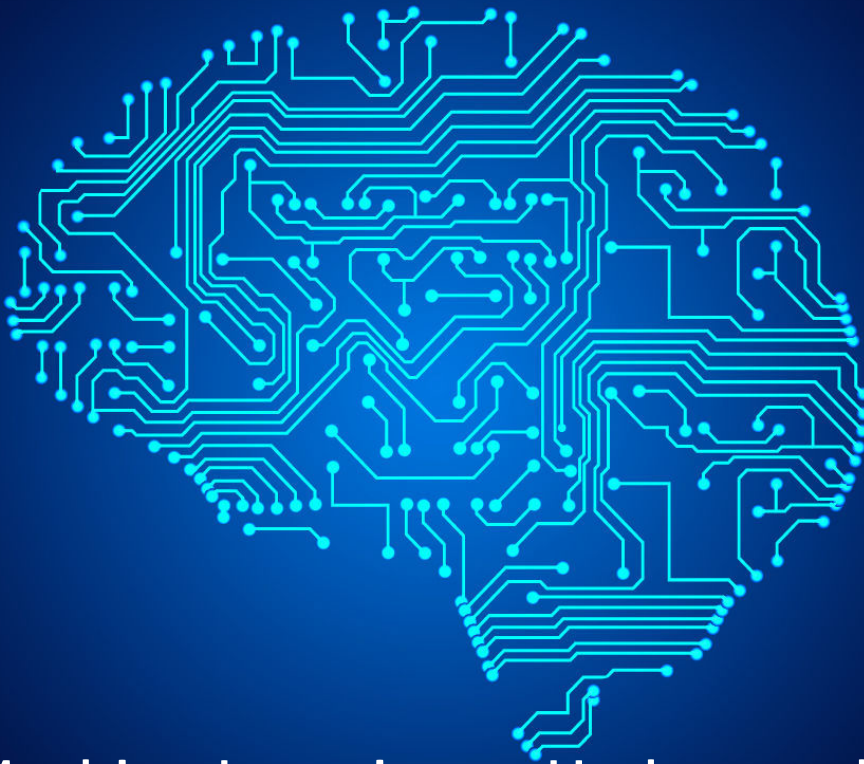
[READ MORE](#)

IN HONOR of Professor Jack Horner's Retirement from Montana State University, Dyslexic Advantage is proud to share their Dyslexic Advantage Kids Magazine on Dinosaurs for free. Click on the magazine at right.



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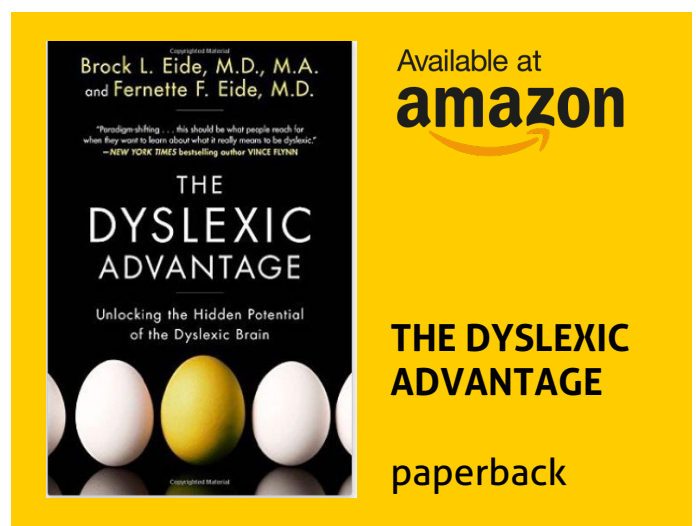
Machine Learning to Understand Dyslexia in Young Adults

From a recent issue of Neuroimage, researchers used a machine learning approach (artificial intelligence) to look at differences in brain wiring between dyslexic and non-dyslexic adults.

As we've seen in other recent research studies, investigators were surprised to find that gray matter differences were not simple deficit findings, but instead differences - less gray matter in one area, but more gray matter in two other areas.

Excerpt: "While in the present study, dyslexics exhibited less gray matter volume in the left inferior parietal lobule (LIPL), they exhibited more gray matter volume in the left occipital fusiform gyrus and right occipital fusiform gyrus...these negative correlations are remarkable: better performances on whole-word reading and spelling are accompanied by reduced gray matter volume."

The LIPL makes sense in terms of visual word form processing, but certainly from a dyslexic strength side, the increase gray matter in bilateral fusiform gyri may make sense because of that area's association with visual imagery. Machine learning has particular promise in dyslexia because of subtleties that exist in dyslexic vs. non-dyslexic wiring.



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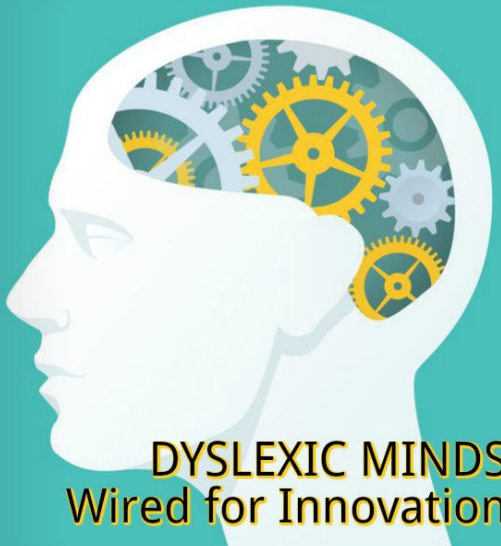


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Dyslexic Advantage Dyslexic Mind Issue

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The Influence of Spelling Ability on Vocabulary Choices When Writing for Children With Dyslexia

This study is a nice confirmation of something that astute parents and teachers recognize: dyslexic students 'dumb down' or simplify their vocabulary in writing because of not knowing how to spell words they know.

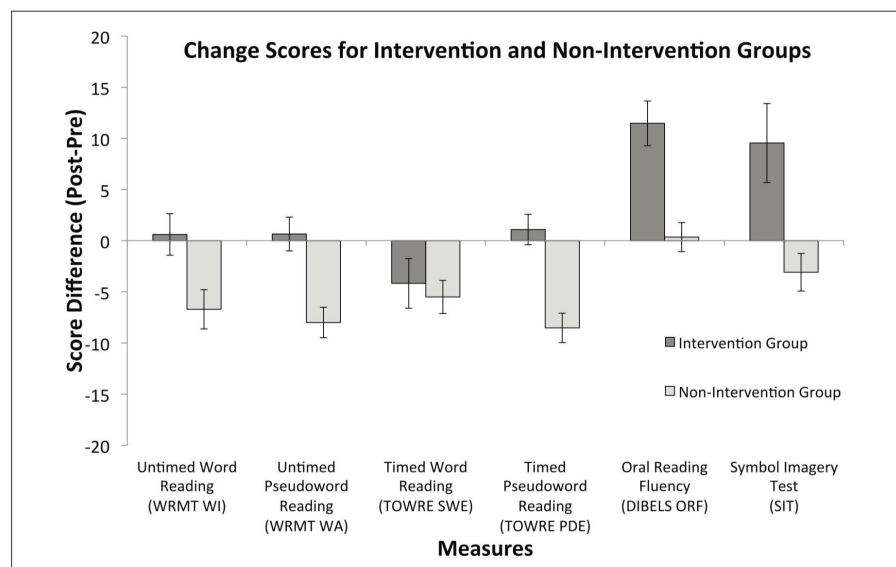
This problem is important to recognize because a student's understanding and intelligence can be greatly underestimated. Students should work with a [desktop speller](#), word prediction software, or be allowed to dictate.

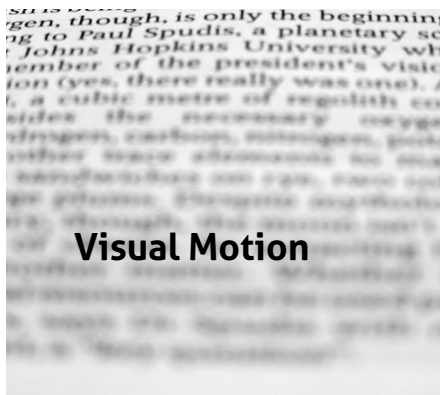


Impact of Intensive Summer Reading Intervention for Children With Reading Disabilities and Difficulties in Early Elementary School (free abstract only)

Intensive 6 week intervention with Lindamood Bell had a significant group effect on reading using the Seeing Stars Program. Individual differences did occur - not every child responded, however some children had a dramatic response and group differences were significant.

Click on the figure at right to see the group results of Seeing Stars Intervention for 6 weeks.





Strong Motion Deficits in Dyslexia Associated with gene DCDC2 Alteration

This is a welcome study that will hopefully increase awareness that a significant number (but not all) of dyslexic children and adults have significant visual motion difficulties that make reading difficult.

"The present study shows that a particular subset of dyslexics with altered genotype, (5–17% of dyslexics) suffers a strong motion deficit. This could contribute to the large intersubject variability in motion discrimination in dyslexia reported in the literature "



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