Early Intervention: Prevent Reading and Academic Failure

A Guide for Parents
Presented by The Ann Robinowitz Education Center

Specializing in educating children with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia.
WARNING SIGNS
If your child displays any of these symptoms he/she may be at risk for reading failure:

Ages 3-4, Preschool
- Delayed speech
- Difficulty pronouncing words
- Limited vocabulary
- Difficulty rhyming
- Does not know how to hold a book
- Unable to recognize alphabet, numbers, shapes
- Unable to recognize and spell own name

Kindergarten
- Cannot identify letters or connect letters with sounds
- Difficulty separating and blending sounds to make words
- Difficulty with language sequencing and finding words
- Unable to distinguish individual sounds that make up words
- Slow to name familiar objects and colors

1st and 2nd Grades
- Difficulty reading one syllable real and nonsense words
- Unable to recognize common and irregular words by sight (have, said, where, two)
- Difficulty discussing stories
- Fails significantly behind peers

What is Dyslexia?

1. Warning Signs
   What do you need to observe?

2. Intervention
   What should you know and do?

3. Process
   Where should you begin?

4. Partnering
   How can you participate?

5. Services and Resources
   Where can you go?

Learning disabilities affect up to 20% of children.
READING FAILURE OCCURS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

- Genetic and environmental factors can produce reading difficulties
- Dyslexia is a leading cause of reading failure
- Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that affects the ability to learn to read and write and also affects performance in other academic subjects
- Dyslexia varies in severity and runs in families
- Children with dyslexia have an unexpected gap between learning potential and school achievement

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- Learning disabilities affect up to 20% of children
- 80% of children with a learning disability have trouble reading
- 70% of poor readers can be helped through early identification and prevention programs
- There are many experts who can help

DYSLEXIA IS NOT

- A sign of low intelligence
- The result of laziness
- A disease
- Curable with pills, diets, or medical treatment
- An eye problem
- Outgrown, although individuals with dyslexia can learn how to read

75% of children who don't receive help by age 9 continue to have difficulty reading throughout life.

INTERVENTION

- Understand language milestones
- Understand reading milestones
- Understand early warning signs of language and speech problems
- Know the current evidence based research about reading difficulties and appropriate interventions
- Communicate with your child’s teacher
- Know your rights as a parent

PROCESS

Where should you begin?

- Talk with your child's teacher
- Get an educational evaluation
- Request the services of a child study team (which includes a psychologist, learning disabilities teacher consultant, and a social worker)
- Confer with other experts like:
  - Speech and language pathologists
  - Reading specialists
  - School psychologists
  - Pediatricians
  - Pediatric neurologists
  - Educational Consultants who are certified Dyslexia Specialists or Dyslexia Therapists
SERVICES WE OFFER

Our internationally recognized team of experts in the area of learning disabilities, including dyslexia, offers the highest quality professional development, educational evaluations, screenings, consultations, and tutoring for students and professionals.

EDUCATOR TRAININGS

The Ann Robinowitz Education Center is staffed by certified specialists and provides expert training and professional development in the areas of literacy, math, and study skills.

Educators will greatly benefit from our available trainings in Wilson Reading Program, Orton-Gillingham, Acadience, Developing Metacognitive Skills, Developing Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading (LETRS) and our Comprehension Connections series.

EDUCATIONAL EVALUATIONS

Early intervention, through our educational evaluations, provides critical advantages in developing reading skills. Assessment of individual performance focuses on potential issues that impede reading and academic development, including specific indicators of dyslexia. Learning issues as well as genetic and environmental factors can affect one’s ability to learn. An early educational evaluation officially documents the identification and history of learning differences in order to demonstrate key eligibility requirements for special education services, benefits, and accommodations in other settings. Evaluations also provide documentation of learning strengths and weaknesses which can be required for accommodations to be provided for high stakes testing such as state required tests, the SAT, and others.

CONSULTATIONS

Our educational consultants guide school administrators (in schools of any type) size, grades served who are looking for appropriate, effective interventions that will improve student outcomes. We provide professional development options including full and half-day workshops to deliver research-based best instructional practices to educators. Our workshops address reading, writing, early literacy, math, and comprehension. We also conduct reviews of student records in order to develop individualized educational programs that meet students unique needs. Our consultants are available to answer any questions about your school’s specific needs.

SCREENINGS AND FULL EVALUATIONS

If your child is struggling with reading or falling behind in class, it’s wise to have him or her evaluated for learning differences. We offer:

- Dyslexia screenings
- Diagnostic reading evaluations
- Full educational evaluations of cognitive abilities and achievement in all academic areas.

TUTORING

Our tutors are certified in the most effective multi-sensory techniques that enable students to read, write, and study more efficiently. In order to maintain certification, tutors are supervised and observed to ensure that they provide fidelity to the prescribed programs and best practices. Our tutors instruct, support, and teach strategies in the following areas:

- Goal setting, time and materials management
- Strategic textbook reading and writing strategies
- Test taking skills, memory skills, and study skills

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF OUR SERVICES, PLEASE VISIT THE ANN ROBINOWITZ EDUCATION CENTER AT ROBINOWITZCENTER.ORG OR CALL (609) 566-6000 X217
OTHER RESOURCES

Organizations

Understood: for learning & attention issues  
Website: understood.org

IDA New Jersey - International Dyslexia Association  
Website: nj.dyslexiaida.org

Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)  
Phone: (888) 300-6710  
Website: LDAAmerica.org

National Center on Improving Literacy  
Website: improvingliteracy.org

Decoding Dyslexia NJ  
Website: decodingdyslexianj.org

Books

Parenting a Dyslexic, Susan Hall

Proust and the Squid, Maryanne Wolf

Reading in the Brain, Stanislas Dehaene

Straight Talk About Reading, Susan Hall and Louisa Moats

The Dyslexic Advantage, Brock L. Eide, M.A. and Fernette F. Eide, M.D.

The New Jersey Dyslexia Handbook: A Guide to Early Literacy Development & Reading Struggles,  
NJDOE is available for free download:  
Website: state.nj.us/education/specialed/dyslexia/NJDyslexiaHandbook.pdf