

RAISING DYSLEXIA AWARENESS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY



YOU CAN DO THIS AND IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

STEP 1 Contact your local head librarian discuss doing a visual display on dyslexia for dyslexia awareness month in October.

STEP 2 Discuss with the head librarian why raising dyslexia awareness is so important to you as a parent/teacher/community member.

STEP 3 Discuss the importance of labeling some of the information: for struggling readers. Many parents know their child is a struggling reader but do not know why, other parents have a 504 or IEP for their child but they received eligibility labeled by the school as " specific learning disability".

STEP 4 Discuss what type and size of space is available at the library: shelf space and wall space and location in the library (children's room, common space).

STEP 5 Offer to help select books for display that address struggling readers, dyslexia, and special education.

Some possible books are: Over Coming Dyslexia by Sally Shaywitz, The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan by Ben Foss, Parenting the Struggling Reader by Susan Hall and Lousia Hall, the Hank Zipper series by Henry Winkler, Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco, From Emotions to Advocacy by Pam Wright and Pete Wright, and Nolo's IEP Guide.

CLICK RESOURCE LINK: <http://www.decodingdyslexiama.org/resources.html>

STEP 6 Offer to create a poster for display on the wall. Print out reliable information on dyslexia including warning signs, methods of remediation, and sources for information (both books and websites). Some possible sources of information are www.ncl.org, www.decodingdyslexiama.org, www.dyslexia.yale.org, www.wrightlsaw.com and www.brightsolutions.us. Provide hand outs with DDMA logo and fact sheet, use this info to share with a poster or wall display.

STEP 7 Ask if the library will hang up information about Decoding Dyslexia MA and provide copies of what DDMA is about. Ask if the library will host a movie night or a parents information session, ask if they will purchase copies of the Big Picture and Dislecksia the Movie.



ADULT BOOK LIST

Overcoming Dyslexia: A New and Complete Science-Based Program for Reading Problems at Any Level by Sally Shaywitz, M.D.; Vintage (2005) — A great book that explains what dyslexia is and gives parents tools for helping their children become fluent readers. One of the most helpful and informative books that most parents read early in their journey that really opens their eyes and points them in the right direction to seek the help their kids needed.

Parenting a Struggling Reader by Susan L. Hall and Louisa C. Moats; Broadway (2002) — This book helps to explain how school systems work and provides real-world practical guidance on how to understand and work within the framework of the public school system. It also helps us understand the need to sometimes look outside public schools for additional resources.

Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy: The Special Education Survival Guide by Pam Wright and Pete Wright; Harbor House Law Press (2006) — Realizing that your child has an LD (or any disability) can set parents off on a roller coaster of emotions. This fabulous book helps us distinguish facts from emotions in order to properly document the facts and be a stronger advocate.

The Human Side of Dyslexia: 142 Interviews with Real People Telling Real Stories About Their Coping Strategies with Dyslexia by Shirley Kurnoff; London Universal, (2001) — Just as the title says, this book is packed with real stories by people with dyslexia. While many books on dyslexia focus on the mechanics of the learning disability, this is the human story of the people who live with it. Through their stories we learn their strategies and tools for coping with the reading disability. Many of the stories are inspirational and will be a comfort to parents who worry about their child's future.

The Brain That Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science by Norman Doidge; Penguin Books (2007) — An astonishing new science called “neuroplasticity” is overthrowing the centuries-old notion that the human brain is immutable. In this revolutionary look at the brain, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Norman Doidge, M.D., provides an introduction to both the brilliant scientists championing neuroplasticity and the people whose lives they've transformed.

The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking the Hidden Potential of the Dyslexic Brain by Brock L. Eide M.D. M.A. and Fernette F. Eide M.D., Plume (2012) — In this groundbreaking book, Brock and Fernette Eide explain how 20% of people—individuals with dyslexia—share a unique learning style that can create advantages in a classroom, at a job, or at home. Using their combined expertise in neurology and education, the authors show how these individuals not only perceive the written word differently but may also excel at spatial reasoning, see insightful connections that others simply miss, understand the world in stories, and display amazing creativity.

The Dyslexic Empowerment Plan: A Blueprint for Renewing Your Child's Confidence and Love of Learning by Ben Foss; Ballantine Books (2013) — This book describes what your dyslexic child is experiencing—and how you can identify your child's strengths so that he or she will thrive.

Language at the Speed of Sight: How We Read, Why So Many Can't, and What Can Be Done About It by Mark Seidenberg (2017) — This book explores the science of reading and the disconnect between the science of reading and practices in education.

Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain by Maryanne Wolf (2008) — Wolf explains the remarkable journey of the reading brain not only over the past five thousand years, since writing began, but also over the course of a single child's life, showing why children with dyslexia have reading difficulties as well as gifts.

The Reading Gap: Journey to Answers (2017) by John Corcoran — A must-read for both parents and teachers, this was written by a former teacher who couldn't read and who later became a prominent literacy advocate.

Essentials of Assessing, Preventing, and Overcoming Reading Difficulties (Essentials of Psychological Assessment) by David A. Kilpatrick (2015)

Essentials of Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention by Nancy Mather and Barbara J. Wendling (2012)

CHILDREN'S BOOK LIST

Parents often look for resources to help them either to explain dyslexia to their child or to inspire him or her. The titles below were selected with this in mind.

Picture Books

It's Called Dyslexia (Live and Learn Series) by (2007) by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos — The child in this story knows the alphabet, but she sometimes has trouble putting all the letters together to read words. No matter how hard she tries, she often mixes up the letters or writes them backwards. She's unhappy until her teacher explains that she has dyslexia, and that she can be helped to read and write correctly.

Tom's Special Talent by Kate Gaynor (2009) —The child in this story isn't sure he has any talents because he is struggling with reading and writing, but a school competition helps him to find his own talent. This book highlights that we all have different strengths.

The Alphabet War: A Story about Dyslexia by Diane Burton Robb (2004) — Another picture book intended to encourage children with dyslexia.

Dyslexic Renegade by Leia Schwartz (2015) — This story is unique as it was written by a 9 year-old girl with dyslexia.

Thank you Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco (1998) — A story of a young girl with dyslexia and a special teacher who helped her.

Books for Older Children

Fish in a Tree by Linda Mullaly Hunt (2015) —A powerful novel about a 6th grader who initially misbehaves in school to hide her struggles with reading, and the teacher who teaches her to read.

Looking for Heroes: One Boy, One Year, 100 Letters by Aidan A. Colvin (2016) — Written by a teen with dyslexia, this is the story of a dyslexic high school student who writes to 100 very successful dyslexics for their words of wisdom and advice.

Hank Zipzer Series by Henry Winkler (first book 2003) — A funny series written by a famous dyslexic about a fifth grader and his struggles with dyslexia, a special teacher who believes in him, and how he learns to overcome it.

The Self-Help Guide for Teens with Dyslexia: Useful Stuff You May Not Learn at School by Alais Winton (2015)

Movies

The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia | www.thebigpicturemovie.com

Dislecksia – The Movie | www.dislecksiamovie.com

Embracing Dyslexia a documentary by Luis Macias (2013)

Journey into Dyslexia: Great Minds Think Differently (2011) HBO Documentary Films

Like Stars on Earth (English version) | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbkMDS7y1I8> (It is tough at first to watch, but it is a great movie!)