

3 Things You Can Do Right Now to Help A Dyslexic Learner

1. DON'T FORCE THEM TO READ ALOUD TO YOU.

It's tempting to think 'practice makes perfect.' Forcing a dyslexic learner to read aloud to you without addressing the learning challenges does more harm than good. A dyslexic learner is not lazy or disinterested. Rather, he or she struggles to read and comprehend in spite of exerting a lot of effort.

2. GIVE THEM EXTRA TIME ON HOMEWORK OR TESTS INVOLVING READING.

Comprehension is a struggle for dyslexic learners. Decoding letters and words requires so much effort that he or she often cannot recall the information just read. Therefore, patience and time are helpful for dyslexic learner. Another great tip is to ask the student to give you verbal answers to questions (rather than a written answer). This allows the student to demonstrate content mastery without struggling to write the answer in a short time period.

3. READ ALOUD WITH YOUR CHILD WHILE HE/SHE READS ALONG.

Dyslexic learners often comprehend best if you read aloud while he or she looks on with you. Increasingly, technology (like iBooks, Kindle, audio books, etc.) makes this an option for students. This enables a dyslexic learner to read with you while not having to slow down for decoding. While this practice will not 'magically fix' a dyslexic learner, it avoids the frustration and self-doubt associated with reading.

GOOD NEWS

Yes, dyslexic learners face challenges. But their brains are uniquely wired to do some amazing things. Every screening I do begins and ends with positive affirmation and information so students can begin to appreciate how they learn. They will know they are in great company when I share some famous dyslexics.