

Handout for our presentation:

Dyslexia: Testing & Teaching

Who should not test?

Most public schools do not test for dyslexia.

Public schools usually test for a learning disability.

Only children with severe dyslexia qualify as having a learning disability.

Before having the school test your child, ask:

“Will you be testing my child for dyslexia?”

There is a huge difference between testing for dyslexia and testing for a learning disability.

Doctors do not test for dyslexia.

It is not a medical issue. It is an educational issue.

Most educational psychologists only test for a learning disability.

There is a huge difference between testing for dyslexia and testing for a learning disability.

Who should test?

A child should be tested an expert in dyslexia:

Someone who has received extensive specialized training in how to give, score, and interpret the tests.

Ideally a Certified Dyslexia Testing Specialist.

Be sure to ask:

“What specialized training have you completed that qualifies you to test a child for dyslexia?”

For a list of other questions to ask BEFORE you hire someone,

Contact our office. 408-559-3652 or Susan@BrightSolutions.US

To receive a list of Certified Dyslexia Testing specialists in your area,

Contact our office. 408-559-3652 or Susan@BrightSolutions.US

When to test?

A child can be accurately tested for dyslexia as young as age 5.

Which tests?

There is no one single test that can prove or disprove dyslexia.
A professional tester will use 10 to 12 tests to probe every area that *might* be impacted by dyslexia, which (at a minimum) include:

Memory

Write the alphabet, their address, days of the week or months of the year in order.

Auditory Processing

Phonemic awareness, rapid naming, and auditory memory size

Phonics

Symbol-to-sound and sound-to-symbol

Reading Word Lists

Lists of isolated words have no picture or context clues.
Lists should include both real words and nonsense words.

Reading Fluency

Read a grade-level story out loud for one minute.
This is be a cold reading.
The story should have no pictures.
Calculate the number of words read correctly in one minute.
Compare that number to the national norms posted on the Dibels website.
<http://dibels.uoregon.edu>

Copy from the Board

Put 3 or 4 sentences on the board that the child can read.
Watch what it takes for a child to copy them onto paper.
Also watch for dysgraphia.
Most children with dyslexia also have dysgraphia.

Writing Sample

Check for spelling and dysgraphia issues.
Check for complete sentences plus correct capitalization and punctuation.
Compare oral vocabulary with written vocabulary.
Usually there is a big difference between their oral expression and their written expression.

Cost of testing?

The cost varies from state to state.
Testing for dyslexia is *not* covered by medical insurance.
Schools do *not* have to pay for it.
Parents, it is the best investment you can make in your child's future.
An accurate diagnosis will lead you directly to effective treatment.
You will avoid wasting years and dollars doing the wrong thing.
A properly written diagnostic report will allow a child with dyslexia to get classroom accommodations through a 504 Plan.

What won't work for children with dyslexia

For an up-to-date list, go to: www.BartonBeading.com/research2.html#wont

Orton-Gillingham

Independent, scientific, replicated research supports the use of an Orton-Gillingham-based system as best practices to improve the reading, spelling, and writing skills of people with dyslexia – if the person is ready for it.

For links to that research, go to: www.BartonReading.com/research2.html

Is the student ready for Orton-Gillingham?

To find out if someone is ready for an Orton-Gillingham-based system, give that person the free 10-minute student screening that is on this website:
www.BartonReading.com

If the student can pass all 3 sections, the student is ready for Orton-Gillingham.

Names of well-known Orton-Gillingham-based systems:

- Slingerland
- Project READ by Language Circle
- Alphabetic Phonics
- MTA
- Wilson Reading System
- Language!
- Barton Reading & Spelling System

To have lasting impact, five things are needed:

An Orton-Gillingham-based system – if the student is ready for it

A well-trained teacher or tutor.

Ideally, someone who is certified by the developer of the system.

One-on-one or small group tutoring.

Tutoring sessions that last 45 minutes to an hour.

At a minimum, two tutoring sessions a week.

If tutoring occurs in a small group, tutoring should occur every day.

To see a free 15-minute demo of the Orton-Gillingham approach

Go to www.BartonReading.com, then click on Demo.

To get it on video or DVD, send an email to Info@BartonReading.com

Additional Questions?

Contact Susan Barton

408-559-3652 or send an email to Susan@BrightSolutions.US