

9 Things Parents Should Do

by Susan Barton

Who is Susan Barton?



- Founder of Bright Solutions for Dyslexia
www.BrightSolutions.US
- Developer of the Barton Reading & Spelling System
www.BartonReading.com
- Creator of dyslexia professionals through summer seminars
Screening for Dyslexia
6-day graduate-level course

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- Blog
www.SusanBartonDyslexiaStories.com

I started as a tutor

- Adults
 - At an adult literacy center
- Children
 - After school dyslexia clinic

Tutoring is not enough

- A tutor is only with your child
 - 2 or 3 times a week
 - for an hour each session
- To get a child through school unscathed
 - A parent must do many things that only a parent can do

I assume

- You are a parent
 - You know or suspect your child has dyslexia



A parent's goal:

- Rebuild their shattered self-esteem
- Be more successful in school
- So they end up living a good and happy life

The perks of being dyslexic
post from Inc.com
by Seth Goldman, a parent and founder of Honest Tea

Once we realized Jonah had dyslexia, we were able to help him retool his language skills. He ended up graduating from high school with honors, and is now on the President's Council at Colorado College.

But he arrived at that point only by working incredibly hard to overcome the academic barriers as well as personal feelings of failure, disappointment, and of being an outsider, which haunted his elementary school years.

As hard as those formative experiences can be on a child, they can contribute to the traits that are prized in every entrepreneur:

Someone who is used to dealing with adversity, and bouncing back from daily setbacks.

Someone who sees existing structures from a completely new perspective.

Someone who is creative and persistent at finding solutions.



9 things parents need to do

- Become a case manager
- Explain dyslexia to your child
- Get Orton-Gillingham tutoring
- Start homework accommodations
- Fight for classroom accommodations
- Use technology tools
- Find their gifted areas
- Network with other parents
- Help others

Dealing with Dyslexia
is **not easy**

but your child is **worth it**

Repeat that every day



Task #1

Become a Case Manager



Become a case manager

- If your child had a medical condition such as diabetes or a peanut allergy
- You must do the same thing for dyslexia
- Most teachers have had no formal training
 - in dyslexia – or how they can help
 - You must guide them



Dyslexia and Teachers

The absence of appropriate teacher training in dyslexia is a serious problem:

- less than 14% of teachers are confident that they can recognize a dyslexic child.
- less than 9% of teachers feel confident that they could teach a dyslexic student to read.
- 4 out of 5 teachers have asked for extra training to teach dyslexic students.

Ohio University System of Ohio
Board of Regents

OhioHigherEd.org



So you need to learn a lot

- This webinar is a good start
- Later, watch my free videos
 - on dyslexia
- www.BrightSolutions.US



There is a lot more . . .

- How To Get Help tab



Task #2

Explain Dyslexia to your Child



Explain dyslexia to your child

- What we don't talk about seems shameful
- Dyslexia is not an excuse (lazy)
 - It is an explanation
 - Such a relief
 - Hope
 - Community – identity, heroes, ordinary people




Project Eye To Eye

- Great mentoring program




David Fink

www.EyeToEyeNational.org




Explain dyslexia to your child

- What we don't talk about seems shameful
- Dyslexia is not an excuse (lazy)
 - It is an explanation
 - Such a relief
 - Hope
 - Community – identity, heroes
- Need a way to explain it to other kids



More . . .

- Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity
 - Has a longer list of books
 - www.dyslexia.yale.edu/EDU_YPbooks.html
- Ask me how to explain dyslexia to a child
 - Susan@BrightSolutions.US



You also need to explain it to

- His teachers
- Siblings and relatives
- Coach, Boy Scout leader, music teacher, Sunday School teacher, etc.



Task #3

Get Orton-Gillingham Tutoring



Get Orton-Gillingham Tutoring

- Most effective
 - For children, teenagers, and adults
- Many good O-G systems
 - Barton Reading & Spelling System
 - Wilson Reading System
 - Take Flight (original name: Alphabetic Phonics)
 - Longer list on my website



If school provides O-G, make sure

- Teacher was trained by O-G developer
 - Or by certified trainer for that O-G system
- Teacher uses it “with fidelity”
 - Right size group
 - Right frequency & session length
 - Right sequence with good lesson plans



Watch out if school claims

- We do "some" O-G
 - Along with some other programs

When it come to appropriate training, intensity, and duration of a program for servicing children with dyslexia:

A little bit of everything is a whole lot of nothing.

-The Dyslexia Project



Watch out if school claims

- We do "some" O-G
 - Along with some other programs
- Ask for name of program
 - If it is not on our O-G list, ask me about it
- Or ask for the research
 - Is there any independent, replicated research that proves it works for kids with dyslexia?



If school provides O-G

- What about summer?
 - Tutoring should be year round
- If no school services in the summer
 - Hire the teacher to do it during the summer
 - Or hire a private tutor to do it
 - Same system



If school does NOT provide it

- Hire a certified private tutor
 - Learning Ally National Tutor Network
 - www.LearningAlly.org, Parent Services, Find a Tutor
 - Each O-G developer can send you a list
- Remote tutoring
- Get trained and do it yourself
 - Barton Reading & Spelling System is ideal



Only Orton-Gillingham

- Stop any other reading intervention
 - In special ed
 - With the reading specialist
 - After school reading club
- 2 methods at the same time are confusing
 - Even if both are O-G
 - That will slow down his progress



Task #4

Start Homework Accommodations Now



Homework Accommodations

- Stop the homework wars
 - Get it done in a reasonable amount of time
 - Fewer tears, less frustration
- So your child has time
 - To be a kid
 - To find and grow his gifted areas
 - So tutoring is not an “added” burden



#1 – Read everything to him

- Textbooks, handouts, everything
 - You read it to him
 - Audio books
 - Scan it and use screen reading software
- No “reading practice” for 20 minutes a day
 - Unless text is provided by his O-G tutor



#2 – Write down his answers

- Ask each question out loud
 - Write down his answer
 - But do not change it or fix it
- Let him dictate compositions
 - Or book reports
- Do not have him copy it
 - Our kids do not learn by copying



#3 – Ignore weekly spelling test

- Our kids cannot retain the words
 - From one week to the next
- Count spelling work done with O-G tutor
 - As his spelling grade
- Or else let him flunk weekly test
 - College recruiters do not look at elementary school report cards



Math homework tips

- I shared 4 tips in my November enewsletter
 - If you need them
 - Send me an email
 - Ask for November Newsletter
 - Susan@BrightSolutions.US



Task #5

Fight for Classroom Accommodations




Classroom Accommodations

- Even if no IEP or 504 Plan
 - Ask teacher to try 4 or 5 critical ones for 60 days
- 2 types
 - Not afraid to go to school
 - Prove what he knows




Afraid to go to school

- Headaches, stomach aches, tears, anxiety
- No more
 - Read out loud in class
 - Spelling bees
 - Pass graded papers down the row
 - Students grade each others papers
 - A-R progress chart in front of the room
 - Miss recess or lunch to finish his work



Prove what he knows

- Despite not yet reading or writing at grade level
- Such as
 - Oral testing
 - Grade in-class written work on content
 - Ignore spelling, capitalization, punctuation, penmanship
 - Shorter assignments
 - Allow technology tools



How to justify accommodations

- Watch my Classroom Accommodations video
 - Use my words
 - Borrow my examples



If school refuses

- Hire an advocate
- Switch schools
- Or homeschool for a year or two
 - 30-minute video – Advice for Homeschoolers
 - Or for those thinking about it



Task #6

Technology Tools



Technology tools

- Bypass his weak areas
 - Do more independently – right now
 - Are not very expensive




Some of my favorites

- Dictation software
 - Naturally Speaking
 - Free on every iPad and Android
- Smart Pen
 - For taking notes in class or in meetings
 - www.livescribe.com
- Audio books, a calculator, word prediction



For a longer list

- Send me an email
 - Subject = Tech Tools
 - Susan@BrightSolutions.US



School might provide them

- If your child has an I.E.P.
 - Ask for an Assistive Technology Assessment
 - The Advocacy Institute
 - Wrote a good article on how to do that
 - www.dys-add.com/AssistiveTechnologyAdvocacy.pdf



If school does not provide

- Get them yourself
 - Not very expensive



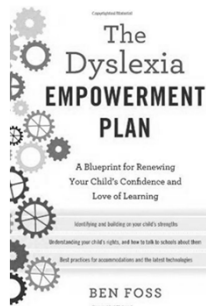
Task #7

Find Their Gifted Areas



Find their gifted areas


- Art
- Athletics
- Music
- Great people skills
- Amazing intuition
- Mechanical skill, good logic
- 3-D visualization
- Extremely curious
- Creative, global thinkers



To find their gifted areas

Parent on-line questionnaire

- <http://headstrongnation.org/parents-map-your-childs-dyslexia/strengths-assessment>



Spend as much time – or more

- Growing their gifted areas
 - as O-G tutoring
- That is more important
 - than homework



Be sure to point out

- The many things
 - Your child does well

Someone
with
Dyslexia
makes me proud
every day

Task #8

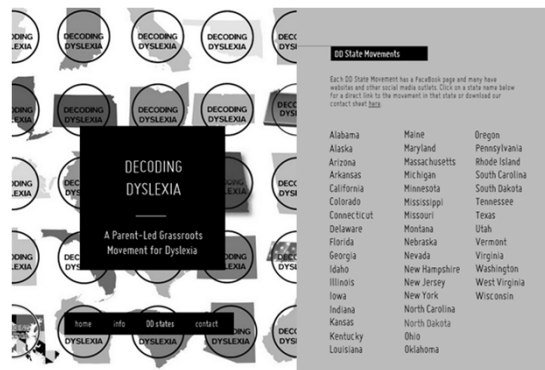
Network with Other Parents

Network with other parents

- You are not alone
 - Dyslexia impacts 1 in 5 children
- When you feel
 - Scared, angry, frustrated, depressed
 - Talk to someone who has "been there"

Join Decoding Dyslexia

- Parent & Teacher Activist Movement
 - in 49 states and Canada
- These folks have truly
 - "Been there" and "Done that"
- www.DecodingDyslexia.net




Goal of Decoding Dyslexia

- Share advice and provide support
and
- Educate, Advocate, Legislate




Task #9

Once Your Child is Safe . . .



Help others

- Tutor
- Advocate
- Dyslexia Consultant and Screener
- Speak – at conferences, churches, PTA, School Board, Rotary Clubs
- Educate teachers – in college, in-service training
- Start a parent support group
- Write articles for teacher and parent magazines
- and more . . .



Now you know

- Why tutoring alone is not enough
- 9 things parents should do
 - Over time
 - Listed in priority order
- Questions?
 - 408-559-3652 or Susan@BrightSolutions.US