50 Tips for Teaching Kids With Dyslexia



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50 Tips for Teaching Kids with Dyslexia Written by Marianne Sunderland

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50 Tips for Teaching Kids With Dyslexia

- LEARN everything you can about dyslexia. You are your child's advocate!
- Teach them about dyslexia. Help them to understand that they are SMART but learn differently.
- 3. Teach them about the common STRENGTHS associated with dyslexia.
- 4. Teach them about SUCCESSFUL dyslexics. For a list of wellknown dyslexics, click here.
- 5. Teach them to get to know how they learn BEST, either visual, auditory or kinesthetic.
- 6. Be their advocate and FIGHT (when needed) for their educational needs to be met.
- Teach them to be their own ADVOCATE and to be able to explain their needs to others.
- 8. Help them find where their TALENTS and INTERESTS lie. Where the two intersect is likely where their unique calling lies.
- Listen to them when they are really struggling and be understanding. Sometimes being dyslexic is HARD.

- 10. Know that there will be bad days. Step back and look at the BIG PICTURE. Feel free to take a break when needed.
- 11. Celebrate the SUCCESSES no matter how big or small.
- 12. CONSIDER psycho-educational testing if you can afford it.
- 13. Help your students to UNDERSTAND their scores and what they mean to their own learning.
- 14. Help them DISCOVER their preferred learning style.
- 15. Use MULTI-SENSORY teaching methods when possible.
- 16. Use AUDIO resources when possible. See the Learning Ally and Audible web sites for more information.
- 17. Allow VERBAL responses rather than written when possible.
- 18. Don't limit their grade level to their reading level. Teach them to read at their reading level BUT ALSO teach them Art, Science, Math, Philosophy and History at their intellectual level.
- 19. Allow your students to show what they have learned in ways OTHER than writing such as acting, sculpting, drawing or painting.
- 20. Take advantage of some of the amazing TECHNOLOGY available today to help with spelling, writing and reading.
- 21. Create a CALM, quiet, orderly learning environment.
- 22. MAINTAIN daily routines.
- 23. Simultaneously combine verbal and visual information. Provide verbal information along with visual displays. Use as many SENSES at once as possible.

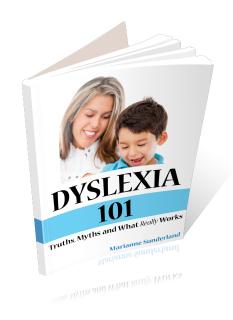
- 24. Give only 1 or 2 VERBAL instructions at a time.
- 25. Give short, SIMPLE instructions.
- 26. Give dyslexic students TIME to process what they have heard.
- 27. Give them time to respond (longer than you THINK it should take).
- 28. GIVE ample time to complete assignments.
- 29. Teach them how to MANAGE their time with organizers.
- 30. Teach them how to ORGANIZE their belongings. Avoid clutter.
- 31. Teach them how to organize their THOUGHTS with graphic organizers.
- 32. Provide ample PRACTICE to acquire mastery.
- 33. Use step-by-step instructions. Everything must be taught EXPLICITLY. Dyslexics are not passive learners.
- ^{34.} Use MNEMONICS for memorizing information. For example, to remember the names of the Great Lakes use the mnemonic HOMES. H Lake Huron, O Lake Ontario, M Lake Michigan, E Lake Erie and S Lake Superior.
- 35. Encourage a LOVE OF LEARNING by reading out loud from great books.
- 36. Teach reading at their level of ABILITY not at their grade level.
- 37. Use RESEARCH based teaching methods for teaching reading.
- 38. Do not REQUIRE a dyslexic person to read out loud in front of others if they are uncomfortable. Ask for this accommodation from teachers as well.

- 39. Practice paired reading to gain MASTERY.
- 40. Turn lined paper SIDEWAYS when doing long math computations.
- 41. Allow the use of a 'cheat sheet' or multiplication square for multiplication problems or even addition problems. This way students can progress at their intellectual level without taking hours for a lesson because they can't remember their math facts.
- 42. ACCOMODATIONS often lead to mastery.
- 43. Encourage the use of estimation during math. Teach students to estimate the correct answer and check their work against this estimation.
- 44. Encourage students to TALK through math problems. Often verbalizing the problem is helpful.
- 45. Do not GRADE writing assignments for spelling errors.
- 46. Use mistakes made in writing LATER during grammar and spelling instruction and focus on organization and creativity during composition.
- 47. Take the time to answer your dyslexic student's QUESTIONS. They often need to understand the why of things.
- 48. Do not immediately repeat or reword instructions if your dyslexic student has not asked. Delays in response time are often due to slow AUDITORY PROCESSING speeds.

- 49. Allow students to MOVE during instruction times. Movement actually helps with MEMORY. Try having students sit on a large exercise ball as long as they are not being disruptive.
- 50. Give your dyslexic students plenty of OPPORTUNITIES to use their strengths. Most dyslexic students show good leadership abilities, problem-solving skills, have wonderful imagination and terrific storytelling skills. Many have natural mechanical abilities, are talented athletes, possess photographic memories and show a strong logical sensibility. They can be assessed to discover their natural talents, interests and hobbies.
- 51. Use your dyslexic students' INTERESTS for learning more difficult subjects like reading, writing and spelling. Their high interest level is a good motivator to push through these difficulties.
- 52. Remember, teaching dyslexic students with compassion, in the way that they learn best can make the DIFFERENCE between their experience of dyslexia as a learning disability to merely a learning difference.

Special Offer for Subscribers

For more teaching tips and to better understand what dyslexia is and how dyslexics learn, get my book, <u>Dyslexia 101: Truths, Myths and What</u> <u>Really Works</u> for the subscriber discount of 50% off with **discount code – educate**.

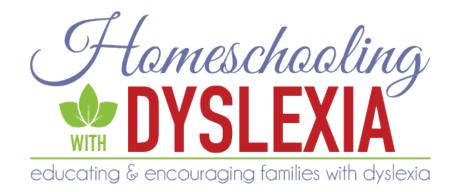


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Parent Dyslexia Training Courses Available

One of the most important things for any parent of a child with dyslexia is to educate themselves on what dyslexia is. The pervasive myths and misinformation about dyslexia that are widely accepted as truth have created confusion even among our so-called educational experts.

One of our goals at Homeschooling With Dyslexia is to educate parents so that they can better educate and advocate for their dyslexic children. Please visit our site and click the "Parent Dyslexia Training Course" tab for available courses. Our first course, Understanding Dyslexia, is available NOW!



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