

Dyslexia Awareness Month

October 2022

Daily Messages & Resources - Week 1

Monday, October 3: Today is the first day of Dyslexia Awareness month when we celebrate and learn more about those with a specific learning disability known as dyslexia. Did you know that according to the International Dyslexia Association, 15-20% of the population have dyslexia? It is more common than we think! Stay tuned for more daily messages to learn more about dyslexia throughout October.

Tuesday, October 4: Do you know what dyslexia is? According to the Texas Dyslexia Handbook and the International Dyslexia Association, dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

Wednesday, October 5: Did you know that dyslexia is not a vision problem or caused by brain damage? Historically, it was believed to be both, however scientific research has taught us that dyslexia is actually neurological in origin and is also hereditary. People with dyslexia are born with dyslexia and their brains use different pathways for reading.

Thursday, October 6: What does Orton-Gillingham mean? Samuel T. Orton, otherwise known as "The Father of Dyslexia," was an American physician and first thought of dyslexia as "strephosymbolia", which means twisted symbols. He met and worked with psychologist Anna Gillingham, and together they created a systematic approach to teaching reading and a form of remediation for struggling readers. The Orton-Gillingham approach to learning is a proven method to help those with dyslexia.

Friday, October 7: Do you know the primary reading and spelling characteristics of dyslexia? The Texas Dyslexia Handbook states those difficulties are difficulty reading words in isolation, difficulty accurately decoding unfamiliar words, difficulty with oral reading (slow, inaccurate, or labored without prosody), and difficulty with spelling.

Daily Messages & Resources - Week 2

Monday, October 10: Do you know what dyslexia-related disorders are? The related disorders "include disorders similar to or related to dyslexia, such as developmental auditory imperception, dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia, developmental dysgraphia, and developmental spelling disability." (TEC) §38.003

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Tuesday, October 11: Did you know that some of the gifts of dyslexia include, seeing the bigger picture, being highly creative, being picture thinkers, and making great entrepreneurs?

Wednesday, October 12: Do you know some of the famous celebrities with dyslexia? Steven Spielberg (director), Henry Ford (inventor of the first automobile), Jamie Oliver, (chef), Richard Branson (billionaire), Steve Jobs (creator of the Apple iPhone), Nolan Ryan (baseball pitcher for the Texas Rangers), all have dyslexia!

Thursday, October 13: Did you know that our district dyslexia program uses a multisensory approach to learning? This approach can strengthen all the learning styles of our students.

Friday, October 14: Did you know that people with dyslexia never outgrow it? With support with early identification and intervention, people can overcome their dyslexia. We need to recognize that people with dyslexia have similar and different ways to overcome reading challenges throughout their lives.

Daily Messages & Resources - Week 3

Monday, October 17: Did you know that audiobooks support people with dyslexia? People with dyslexia typically have trouble reading fluently, which affects their comprehension. Listening to books allows for more enjoyable reading and learning experiences.

Tuesday, October 18: Do you know the components of dyslexia instruction? They are phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency.

Wednesday, October 19: Did you know that according to Dr. Sally Shaywitz, the same number of boys and girls are identified with dyslexia? It is a myth that more boys are identified than girls.

Thursday, October 20: Did you know that dyslexia exists in other languages besides English? According to the International Dyslexia Association, research suggests

that "Dyslexia exists in all languages at a higher rate than once suggested". Some students struggle with learning a foreign language because they are already struggling with their native language.

Friday, October 21: Did you know that early identification is critical and helps to prevent future reading difficulties and their consequences? Early identification also makes remediation more effective.

Daily Messages & Resources - Week 4

Monday, October 24: Did you know that handwriting supports spelling? According to the Texas Dyslexia Handbook, “spelling is a complex process of translating a phoneme (spoken sound) to the corresponding grapheme (orthographic representation) to generate written text to express an idea. Orthography is the written spelling patterns and rules in a given language. Students must be taught the regularity and irregularity of the orthographic patterns of a language explicitly and systematically. The instruction should be integrated with phonology and sound-symbol knowledge”.

Tuesday, October 25: Did you know that giving specific praise, immediate corrective feedback, and time to self-correct helps motivate students’ progress? Students need to know exactly what they did well and what they need to continue to work on. For example, instead of “Great job!” say, “Great job at segmenting the sounds”. Instead of, “No, that’s not right”, say, “Try again...., nice try, the sound is clipped and sounds like /d/.”

Wednesday, October 26: Do you know the six syllable types that help students to decode and read more fluently? They are closed syllable (i.e. cat), open syllable (i.e. hi), vowel-consonant-e syllable (i.e. shine), vowel pair syllable (i.e. feet, cow or rain), final stable syllable (i.e. table), and vowel-r syllable (i.e. star).

Thursday, October 27: Did you know that students with dyslexia can also be identified as gifted and talented? We call this, twice-exceptional or 2e. Students with learning disabilities are gifted and talented.

Friday, October 28: Do you know the five spelling rules? They are the floss rule (i.e. miss), doubling rule (i.e. running), rabbit rule (i.e. kitten), dropping rule (i.e. baking), and changing a rule (i.e. studied). These rules help determine the orthographic spelling of words with these special rules. Spelling can be categorized as a regular spelling pattern, a rule word, or an irregular spelling pattern.

Monday, October 31: Did you know that people with dyslexia typically have an average or above IQ? According to the National Institute of Health in 2011, their research findings led to dyslexia not being tied to IQ. Drs. Bennett and Sally Shaywitz found that some people with dyslexia are brilliant but have low reading scores.

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Resources for PLC	Resources to Share with Students
7 Common Myths About Dyslexia - Understood.org	Nessy's ebook Dyslexia Explained
What is Dyslexia - Ted Talk	Region 4's Interactives
Dyslexia Training by Microsoft	Brain Pop- Dyslexia
Additional Resources	
Texas Dyslexia Handbook, 2021	
International Dyslexia Association	
Houston Branch International Dyslexia Association	
Academic Language Therapist Association Professional Development Calendar	
The Yale Center for Dyslexia	
Florida Center for Reading Research	
Reading Rockets	