

Reading Struggles and Overcoming Obstacles

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God's fingerprints are on each child

Psalm 139:14 *"I will praise You; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Your works; and that my soul knows right well."*

Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them."*

First things to get rid of: *guilt and fear!*

We can't take credit for what come easily for our children any more than we can take the blame for what is hard for them. The uniqueness of each child is really the revelation of God's fingerprints on their lives.

Developmental: 8-year span between ages of early readers and late readers – from 4 to 12 years.

How is Their Vision?

Check for:

Light sensitivity

Moving letters, words, or lines on page

Headaches after reading, watering eyes, rubbing, tired

Do any of these sound like my child? (list from <https://HSLDA.org>)

- Reverses words when reading (*was* for *saw*, *on* for *no*, *big* for *dig*, etc.) after having already been taught the words
- Skips short words when reading
- Needs to use finger to track after age 7
- When reading orally, reads smoothly at the beginning of a page but becomes more labored the longer they read
- Experiences eye fatigue shortly after reading begins (watery eyes, rubbing eyes)
- Starts to yawn shortly after reading begins
- Continues to struggle even after being prescribed eyeglasses

If you think your child might have a visual processing challenge, they may need:

- A regular vision check, a developmental optometrist, color tinted glasses, color strips
- Resources: <https://irlen.com>

Dyslexics are wired differently, not broken!

Is more than letter reversals or difficulty reading. They are not broken or damaged, rather the wiring in their brain is just different than those who are able to learn to read with no struggle. Dyslexic brain wiring is different, not broken! The ones with these dyslexia strengths/weaknesses are right brain processing kids.

Dyslexia Early Signs:

1. Can't retain phonics instruction
2. Works too hard compared to other learning areas
3. Struggles to follow instructions
4. Struggles to remember information
5. Struggles to read without visual aids
6. Inconsistent mistakes, unable to incorporate feedback
7. Avoiding reading, lose confidence

Resources: Orton Gillingham multi-sensory approach; <https://diannecraft.org>, Barton Reading

Beth Ellen Nash article in Winter 2018-19 *The Old Schoolhouse® Magazine, Dyslexia's Flip Side: Strengths and Challenges*, The Old Schoolhouse Issue Library at www.TOSMagazine.com, search: dyslexia

The goal should not be to find a cure but to help them become the highest-functioning dyslexics they can be. This includes using teaching strategies that tap into their strengths – using them to overcome those weaknesses.

10 Dyslexia Strengths:

1. Unique thinking skills, think in pictures, good memory
2. Look at the world differently, outside the box, 3D vision
3. Curious, remember auditory and visual details
4. Self-starters, create and complete projects
5. Innovative, Creative problem solver
6. Use their senses and body to learn
7. Logical reasoning and analysis
8. Kinesthetically wired
9. Perseverance
10. intelligent conversations

Resources: dyslexiaresource.org; TOS Issue Library, <https://theliteracybrain.com/2020/08/07/advantages-of-being-dyslexic/>
All About Reading/Spelling <https://resources.allaboutlearningpress.com>

Right Brain strategies that train the child's natural photographic memory for easy retention of sight words, phonics sounds, and spelling: <https://diannecraft.org>

Need memory hooks and multi-sensory approaches to teaching. Orton Gillingham resources online at Teachers pay Teachers, Pinterest, etc.

What is our vision? For what purpose?

God is a writer, and He created us to be readers! We are specially designed to have the capacity and ability to read. **Why?** To know Him (Psalm 1)

“...and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God...” Deuteronomy 17:19

What We Do (for all children as a learning lifestyle):

- We read to our babies, toddlers, non-readers daily.
- We read their favorite book over and over when they are toddlers
- We read aloud those good, exciting, wholesome chapter books when they are any age.
- We provide books on audio for children so they can listen while they are doing something constructive with their hands.
- We make going to the library a special treat or for special interests. (dinosaurs, insects, crafts, history)
- We buy children special books as special gifts.
- We let them catch our spirit of loving to read and hope that they model our reading behavior.
- We teach them the mechanics of reading.
- After all of that they are certain to be proficient readers, right? Not always – there are still those struggling readers out there that need our help to overcome their struggles.

Don't hold your child back in other areas because of reading struggles. Read textbook aloud or find audio versions. Choose video-based math instead of reading-based. Add art and music and mnemonics to gain retention of information.

What Helped All Readers – overall lifestyle of reading, priority over workbooks, phonics, narration/dictation/ copywork, good literature – every day.

Fun: reading clinics, reading challenges, rewards, reading units. Audio book days with crafts and art.

Overcoming Struggles:

Pray. Walk in faith. Focus on what God has put before you and not on what you lack. Give all that you have and all that you are to Jesus. He will bless and multiply your efforts.

Come to **The Old Schoolhouse** booth for a list of 100 Books for your Homeschool Library!