

THE DYSLEXIA REVOLUTION

Quarterly Newsletter from The Dyslexia Initiative



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

This is an extra stressful time for our community with the havoc COVID-19 is creating in our lives. Our schools are closed, most of us are working from home, the virus itself, for many the sudden lack of a paycheck, etc. To say this is an extra special time is really an understatement of what we are all feeling, but there's something else too. You see, I try to look at the positive in most things. Yes, I can definitely be a pessimist, but I try in all things to be an optimist.

I have a full time career, and I really wish I could teach my child myself. I for one, knowing it is a fleeting period of my life where my child (boy) is a) home and b) wants his mom around. I have always been aware of this and have always tried to savor every moment. I am grateful for this time at home, with my husband and son, but more than that, I am grateful that I get to take complete charge over his education.

Instead of not knowing what's being taught and not being sure how well he understands, we can now see exactly what instruction is being given and fill in his holes in understanding (aka math!). I've taken over his dyslexia tutoring and his actual tutor will Skype with him to do what I do not have the training to do. There are also a ton of resources that have been made available by amazing people, organizations and artists. This is a unique time, filled with opportunity, and I am grateful.

Be well!
-Ashley



THE SIMPLE VIEW OF READING, PART 2

What the Rope Means:

The simple view of reading, was proposed by researchers Philip B. Gough and William E. Tunmer in 1986, and Scarborough's rope is a nice representation of that view.

Examining the bottom of the rope, for word recognition to be intact, the child has to have phonological awareness, be able to have good phoneme / grapheme / or spelling sound correspondences intact, good sight word bank for reading by site, and they need all of this to recognize words and patterns more automatically.

For language comprehension, the child has to possess background knowledge, vocabulary (breadth and precision), language structure, be able to reason verbally, and possess some knowledge of genres and print concepts. This is so they can become more fluent readers, so they have more opportunities to engage in higher level text, which means they are being exposed to more words.

When it's all coming together, what that means is the child can be more present in their cognitive focus, so they can be thinking about what they're reading, not bogged down at a word level, and if all those things are happening succinctly then students typically develop as fluent readers. When you pull that back to simple view of reading, it really boils down to words and our language.

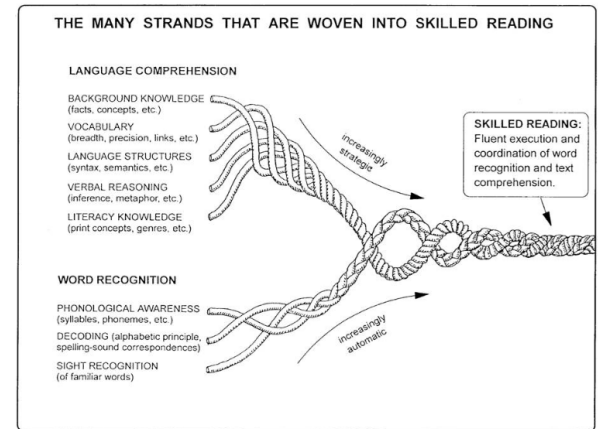


Image courtesy of the author, originally appeared in : Scarborough HS (2001). Connecting early language & literacy to later reading (dis)abilities: Evidence, Theory & Practice. In S. Neuma & D. Dickinson (eds.) "Handbook for Research in Early Literacy" (pp 97-110). New York, NY: Guilford Press

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Well, we're all at home with our children. Most are having online instruction provided by their schools, which is amazing and so helpful, but did you know there are also some other resources, many of which are being offered for free, that you can take advantage of? Here are just a few of our favorites.

From the Orton Gillingham Online Academy: "VIP Access: Home Review is for parents and teachers during this time of school closures. We will be offering hundreds of dollars of resources, as well as a module specifically for teachers who will be providing OG tutoring via an online platform, for a \$25 access fee. This an evolving event and we will continue to add materials and resources that we feel would be helpful for you during this time. The resources provided will be available for download until 5/1/20, but enrollment is only open until 4/10/20 - so act quickly! We would love to have you join us." <https://ortongillinghamonlinetutor.com/>

For our children who adore science and space exploration, NASA has made their entire collection of images, sounds, and video available and publicly searchable online. It's 140,000 photos and other resources available for you to see, or even download and use it any way you like. <https://images.nasa.gov/>

Want to learn about animals? There are a variety of amazing options! First, for our farm animals, or future FFA student, there's virtual farm tours. <http://origin.americandairy.com/news-and-events/dairy-diary/dairy-farming/virtual-farm-tours-while-youre-stuck-at-home.shtml?fbclid=IwAR3iz38Ght7p6B3twRYpcGpYiSzc3RwuAgu6693rCzGDO8LVtIVN1Qiefs>. Also the Georgia Aquarium is running live webcams of their underwater animals. https://www.nacity.com/things-to-do/us/ga/atlanta/georgia-aquarium-has-live-cameras-that-let-you-explore-from-home?fbclid=IwAR2Sjci5PiDNWkhJMqrSZ6hFzAnvkuE1iqNnv5qk41_RLJPYSSPsoXyflE

For your budding artist, The Kennedy Center and Mo Williams is running Lunch Doodles. <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/?fbclid=IwAR2BibVYhTCrxPtVAXj7V8e1G8CClZAD1TiPua4RyyyA4hf676YsiFPbBbU>. The videos are available via YouTube after the sessions are over.

And for your adventurer, there are 33 National parks you can explore from the comfort of your home, thanks to Google Earth. <https://totallythebomb.com/heres-33-national-park-tours-you-can-take-virtually-from-the-comfort-of-your-home?fbclid=IwAR0YqU4TUa1AwC1T9DJTmJAP9-Cog3BBH8APX90cadnlbqvdk1UZTVa-XiY>

ONLINE DYSLEXIA RESOURCES

A collection of online resources to assist during this time:

Nessy

www.nessy.com is offering a low cost solutions during this health crisis.

Woodin Math

www.WoodinMath.com is always a great math resource for kids with dyslexia and / or dyscalculia. The content is free to use.

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7md7J-Hl65ljZZCg-wN4YA> - Whether your school uses Heggerty products or not, their short instructional videos are a fantastic resource for parents.

The Reading League

https://wakelet.com/wake/5907e740-2235-486f-aa64-88f6357c588a?fbclid=IwAR1owGsbfnfX8ZZs6jqZ_EK_uzU7NvwegeAh0cwKuKtgiiT1Zw3M-g_n5Q0g - They have prepared a Wakelet file which shares numerous resources entitled Parent Resources for Education During School Closures.

Really Great Reading

Really Great Reading is offering free webinars and many free resources, for example: Letter Tile Play and Heart Word Magic. Check out the free resources : <https://www.reallygreatreading.com/> They are also offering free webinars. Check out the webinars here:

<https://www.reallygreatreading.com/content/webinars-virtual-professional-development?fbclid=IwAR3y8KyZ6n4CaxUufploriGas8dysC964B5PbqHj-QbSaZvWrwGZzE8ZyM>

Parent Webinar: Evidence-Based Ways to Support Children with Reading

This video is both a teaching tool for parents in understanding the science of reading and it provides tips for supporting literacy at home through the big five of reading.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qO84dU-_DGE&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2IJN3h26AcTbL_qAfMrtoXdJzqvqPsHZSPazqTG1a1mr1khOloBuLo-YQ



FOCUSING ON FAMILY

The world in which we find ourselves right now is bizarre to be sure. The entire world is impacted as countries close their borders and businesses and schools close while we all self quarantine. Our children are watching us, taking note of how we respond.

We encourage all to take this time to focus more on family and connection than anything else. Nothing is more important than family and the ties that bind us all together. We encourage getting outside, playing games, reading stores, watching movies, drawing on the sidewalks and driveways messages of connection and hope.

For self esteem resources we like Big Life Journals. Personally I don't use all of their materials as they're not all well suited for a dyslexic child, but I like the concept and have been able to adapt the materials to suit my purposes.

Don't forget to focus on mindfulness during this time. Now would be a great time to start a mindfulness practice. Look at **The Mindful Child: How to Help Your Kid Manage Stress and Become Happier, Kinder and More Compassionate** by Susan Kaiser Greenland; **Everyday Blessings: The Inner Workings of Mindful Parenting** by Myla and Jon Kabat-Zinn, and **A Still Quiet Place: A Mindfulness Program for Teaching Children and Adolescents to Ease Stress and Difficult Emotions** by Amy Saltzman, MD.

DYSLEXIA COFFEE TALK - THE PODCAST

We were so excited to take our Dyslexia Coffee Talk to an additional medium and launch it via podcast. You can find it on any of your favorite podcast mediums and listen to all of our episodes to date. The podcast is typically loaded within a week of the coffee talk live. Don't forget, they are also available on our YouTube channel. We hope you've enjoyed the episodes so far. We are excited about the future of DCT!



Don't forget to subscribe for updates like our newsletter and more on our website, www.TheDyslexiaInitiative.org.

