



JERSEY SHORE
LEARNING CENTER
RIDE THE WAVE TO SUCCESS

Your Child is Dyslexic: What is the best program for reading improvement? Who should you listen to: the neuropsychologist, child study team, reading expert?

AUTHOR PAGE:

Mary Beth D'Antoni has been active in the field of education for over thirty years. She holds a NJ K-12 teaching certificate. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Education. She worked as a Seventh Grade Language Teacher, Reading Teacher, Adjunct Professor of Reading and is author of "Pathways to the Mind," a reading program for students who have difficulty learning to read from traditional methods. Her educational experience has included concentrated work in remedial, developmental and enrichment areas for kindergarten through college level students. Ms. D'Antoni has done extensive independent research related to students with learning disabilities. Her program "Pathways to the Mind" is based on her experiences, findings and research on the development of reading skills and has been recognized throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Ms. D'Antoni is owner and founder of Jersey Shore Learning Center located in the seaside town of Brielle, NJ. She has conducted and continues to conduct workshops for parents and educators. Ms. D'Antoni's teaching materials have proven to be highly successful in the development of essential learning skills.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Chapter 1:

Introduction..... 1

Chapter 2:

The Neuropsychologist....2

Chapter 3

The Child Study Team.....3-5

Chapter 4

The Reading Expert.....6

Chapter 5

Back to the Question.....7

Chapter 6

The Dilemma.....8

Chapter 1:

Introduction



My child needs help learning to read!

The struggling reader has difficulty learning to read through traditional methods. When a child says, “I *can’t* read,” they *won’t* read because they are not being taught to their strengths. Their strengths are hidden in their right brain. Traditional teaching is very structured and systematic. Left brain learners are successful learning from traditional teaching strategies. On the other hand, right brainers need to learn through creativity, three dimensional objects (letters), and imagination. Once your child is taught using their strengths, they no longer say, “I *can’t* read”, or “I *won’t* read.” They learn they *can* read.

Chapter 2:

The Neuropsychologist

Job Responsibilities



- **Initial visit:** The neuropsychologist will take a detailed case history. You may be asked to fill out questionnaires about your child's development and behavior. From there, the specialist will decide on the appropriate tests to give your child.



- **Testing:** Your child will return for anywhere from two to four sessions of testing. A session can last from 90 minutes to three hours. The specialist will determine the session length that's right for your child.



- **Review and diagnosis:** Once the neuropsychologist has reviewed the test results, you'll meet again. If your child is a teen, he'll likely be part of this discussion. The specialist will describe what the tests show and how they explain what you're seeing in your child's learning or behavior. If your child has one or more learning and thinking differences, the specialist will identify them.



- The neuropsychologist also might suggest types of help for your child or come up with a treatment plan. In her report, she may recommend that your child get specific supports and services at school. Some neuropsychologists also provide more specialized therapy in their offices or at a hospital.



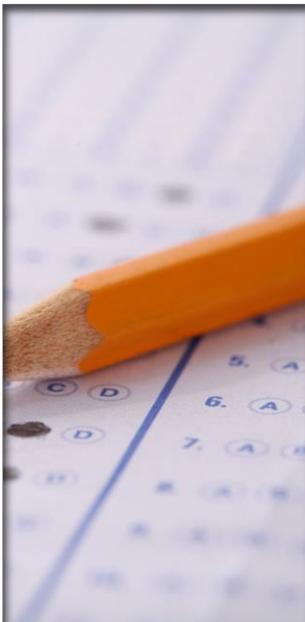
- You might also get a referral to other types of professionals. These might include a psychologist, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, reading specialist or healthcare provider who can prescribe medication

Chapter 3:

The Child Study Team

Job Responsibilities

Child Study Team (CST) is a multidisciplinary group of professionals typically employed by the board of education to provide parents and teachers with a variety of learning related services. These services include consultative, evaluative and prescriptive services for students who are experiencing academic difficulties. A typical CST consists of a psychologist, a learning disabilities consultant, social worker and oftentimes, a speech/language therapist alongside the student's parents. Ideally, they will meet before any special education testing is conducted and will continue to meet periodically if the student requires special services.



Roles of the Team Members

Psychologist

The primary role of the psychologist is to assess the student's developmental and cognitive abilities. In addition, the psychologist also assesses and monitors the emotional status of the student to pinpoint any factors which may affect behavior and academic performance. In certain situations, the psychologist may also provide counseling services, instruction and mentoring for students struggling with a combination of social, emotional and behavioral problems.

Learning Disabilities Consultant

Learning disabilities consultants (LDT-C) are certified teachers with a graduate level specialization in Learning Disabilities or equivalent. These individuals are trained to identify the learning styles, and to develop a customized learning plan for the student.

Social Worker

The primary responsibilities of the social worker lie in assessing the interactions of the student in relation to family, school and community. This professional gathers information in matters concerning the student's health, family and academic history as it relates to the student's current situation. In addition, the social worker is also responsible for coordinating students and their families with community resources.

Speech/Language Therapist

The speech and language therapist is pivotal in assessing the student's ability to communicate. Speech and language therapist provide assessments and intervention in areas where there is evidence of speech, language or other cognitive-communication difficulties. Development of age specific communication skills is essential to the learning process. Language skills also play a vital role to the student's sense of social and emotional well-being. In order to be successful, students must be able to understand language, express their thoughts and to interact in a meaningful manner with others.

Chapter 4:

Reading Expert

Job Responsibilities

Instruction

The reading expert works to implement a quality reading program that meets the needs of students.

Assessment

The reading expert has specialized knowledge of assessment and diagnosis that is vital for developing, implementing, and evaluating the literacy program in general, and in designing instruction for individual students. He or she can assess the reading strengths and needs of students and provide the necessary intervention to improve reading skills.

Knowledge

The reading expert has knowledge of the reading process. He or she understands how to implement multi-sensory instruction and meet each individual student's needs, so they become proficient readers.

Chapter 5:

Back to the Question?

Who would you listen to? It is obvious!

- The Neuropsychologist who will test, review and diagnose your child. Sure, he or she will recommend you go to the school with their report and DEMAND that your child gets Wilson. But....do they know anything about the reading process other than you need the basic strategies related to phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension to be a proficient reader? Wilson is the right remedy ONLY because it is basically the only program used in the public-school system for a dyslexic child or a student with a global reading disorder....But, one program doesn't work for ALL students!
- The child study team who provides parents and teachers with a variety of learning related services but are tied down to the school's budget. Again, do they have knowledge of the process of reading or just that the student's phonics, vocabulary, fluency, working memory scores are low.
- The reading expert assesses your child and has extensive knowledge of the reading process....and are TOLD to use Wilson (whether it works or not!

Chapter 6:

The Dilemma

- The neuropsychologist wants to find something wrong so you will need to come back.



- The child study team must adhere to the red tape that goes on in the public-school system. Say this...or else! It all comes down to money



- The reading specialist must sit in the CST meeting and follow along with what they say.



- The reading expert who is not associated with any red tape will tell you the truth. They do not have to adhere to any red tape. Their job is to ensure each child is successful!



At Jersey Shore Learning Center, we are dedicated to educating your child, so they become confident, proficient readers and are successful on their life's journey.

We use an eclectic approach to teaching reading. Our expert teachers have extensive knowledge in Orton-Gillingham, Wilson, and Linda-Mood Bell. They are continually trained in the reading process.

They are passionate about their job as an educator and see each child as a unique individual with unique needs.



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