

Meeting Learners Where They Are – F-84
ISACS Conference, Columbus OH
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The Lexington School, JCHILDERS@thelexingtonschool.org

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 instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

(Lyon, Shaywitz, & Shaywitz, 2003, p.2)

The student with dyslexia:

- No two are alike
- Differences in severity
- Coexisting conditions with other types of problems such as anxiety or attention
- Coexisting strengths, or areas of talent and interest that enable a person to do well in life. They excel in careers such as architects, engineers, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, actors, and athletes.

Why the need?

- 15-20% of the population has a learning difference
- 80% of the students with LD have their problems in reading
- 74% of the children identified in third grade remain disabled in 9th grade if they do not receive intervention
- These students are in your schools

School within a school model

- Provides educational services to students' language based learning differences and attention issues
- Students attend core classes in The Learning Center
- Specials classes (art, music, and PE) are attended with same age peers
- Lunch and recess with same age peers

Effective Programs

- High Intensity
- Small group instruction
- Styles of teaching matters
- Highly Skilled Teachers

Teacher Training Costs:

- Initial Training-4 teachers:
- The Key School in Asheville, NC—IMSLEC Accredited - 2 week training
- Tuition-\$1,800.00/teacher
- Practicum Fee-\$500.00/teacher
- ALTA Exam Fee--\$120.00/teacher
- Lodging and meals--\$1,800.00/teacher
- Subsequent Training
 - In-house w/ Instructor from The Key School
 - 2012-Basic Training \$18,000.00
 - 2014-Advanced \$8,000.00

TLS Enrollment

Fall 2010 – 16 students

Winter 2011- 20 students

Fall 2011- 28 students Winter 2012- 32 students

Fall 2012- 40 students Winter 2013- 44 students

Fall 2013- 44 students Fall 2014- 52 students Fall 2015- 53 students

Expected Results

- Students generally transition back to regular classroom after 3 years of instruction
- Gains are sustained and progress continues at an average rate
- Students become independent learners

Difficulties encountered

- Educating students, faculty, parents
- Scheduling specials classes
- Communication between divisions
- Communication to Parents

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What inspires this leap?

- A boy with dyslexia
- A daughter who cannot recognize her letters...yet
- A school's growth mindset
- A cartoonist

How did we get started?

- Identified Orton-Gillingham trained teacher to share the vision for a stronger learning community.

- Visited Jane and Chuck at The Lexington School.
- Began assessing students to determine our needs.
- Had teachers who showed some interest shadow our director for a day.
- Talked with local parochial schools to determine their need/interest.
- Identified current teachers and new hires to identify best OG mentors.
- Set up two-year pilot with limited grant money (\$35,000/year)

Our Advice...

- Start with Why – why are you considering this?
“to create change that lasts, we need to know what we stand for”

For us...

- Reinvigorated our faculty with purpose.
- Allowed us to be a private school with public purpose serving other schools.
- Received IDA accreditation as clinical site for West Liberty University Reading program – one of 25 such accredited programs in the country.
- Begin listening to teachers discuss a bright student’s need
 - to repeat a grade,
 - to work harder
 - to check his spelling, math, etc.
 - to get organized
- Find out what resources are available to your families.

“The best way to find out if it will work is to try it.”