



Decoding Dyslexia

Notable Quotes and Information about Dyslexia

1.) “Children with reading problems can overcome their difficulties only if they are identified early and provided with systematic, explicit, and intensive instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension strategies. **Early identification, coupled with comprehensive early reading interventions can reduce the percentage of children reading below basic level in fourth grade from the current national average of 38% to less than 6%.**”

- Dr. Reid Lyon, Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) testified before the subcommittee on Education Reform, Washington, DC on March 8, 2001

2.) Critically important is that schools must use evidence-based programs that have proven efficacy; research-based simply indicates that there are theoretical suggestions but does not provide evidence that the program is, indeed, effective. **Evidence-based programs are akin to the level of evidence the FDA requires before a medication can be approved for use.** Many, many theoretical, research based approaches, when tested in the field, prove to be ineffective. **Our children's reading is too important to be left to theoretical, but unproven, practices and methods.** We must replace anecdotal and common, but, non-evidence-based practices, with those that are proven, that is, they are evidence-based.

--Dr. Sally Shaywitz from testimony before the Congressional Committee on Science, Space and Technology on Thursday, September 18th, 2014.

3.) Reading failure is the most commonly shared characteristic of juvenile justice offenders. This is an enormous cost to our society.

-- NIH (National Institute of Health)

4.) “NICHD longitudinal studies indicate that of children who are reading disabled in the third grade, **74 percent remain disabled at the end of high school.**”

“One factor that impedes effective instruction with children at risk for reading failure is current teacher preparation practices. **Many teachers have not had the opportunity to develop basic knowledge about the structure of the English language, reading development, and the nature of reading difficulties.** Major efforts must be undertaken to ensure that colleges of education develop preparation programs to foster the necessary content and pedagogical expertise at both preservice and inservice levels.”

--From: The NICHD Research Program in Reading Development, Reading Disorders and Reading Instruction: A Summary of Research Findings G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D. Chief Child Development and Behavior Branch National Institute of Child Health and Human Development National Institutes of Health

5.) Dyslexia is the leading cause of reading failure and school drop outs in our nation.

--NIH (National Institute of Health)

6.) **Dyslexia is identifiable with 92% accuracy at age 5 1/2.**

--NIH (National Institute of Health)

7.) “The diagnosis of dyslexia is as precise and scientifically informed as almost any diagnosis in medicine.”

-- Dr. Sally Shaywitz Yale Center for Creativity and Dyslexia