

# Steps to Take in Helping Your Child

1. **Phonemic Awareness:** Your child needs phonemic awareness instruction and practice. Two great programs are

- **Heggerty**
- **Kilpatrick's "Equipped for Reading Success."**

If the school does not have either of these programs then buy the Kilpatrick book and give this to the ESE teacher to use in any pull out resource instruction for your child. Work on the exercises at home with your child as well. Your child needs competency on an advanced level in order to be able to successfully undertake the proper reading instruction.

2. **Orton-Gillingham instruction:** Use an Orton-Gillingham-based System(OG) with your child. Do this on your own or hire a tutor but make sure it is an OG system. If your child has an I.E.P. make sure the school provides this kind of reading intervention.

**Do not allow the school to provide any other type of reading or spelling intervention** – not with a reading specialist, not in a special education class or resource room, and not in an after-school reading club. Your child needs an Orton-Gillingham approach, and should not be provided multiple programs or it will confuse them.

3. **Increase the frequency of tutoring during the summer.** The more often a student gets the right type of tutoring, the faster the child will improve. Summer is an ideal time to increase the tutoring frequency – because during the summer, there is no homework, there are no tests to study for, etc.

Children will improve their reading, spelling and writing skills more with an hour a day of the right type of tutoring than by going to summer school.

4. **Classroom Accommodations:** It will take from 1.5 to 3 years of tutoring one-on-one two days a week in an Orton-Gillingham- based program to bring your child's reading, spelling, and writing skills up to grade level. In the meantime your child needs accommodations in the classroom.

- **More time on tests**
- **Tests read to them**
- **Ability to use the Scan Pen**
- **Use audio-books and get text books on audio**
- **Access to technology Apps**
- **Dictating or keyboarding instead of writing** – can use the microphone on ipad or iphone, Google Docs has a dictation. **DO NOT** purchase any dication software, use what is on your devices.

- **Repreive on spelling tests, use a Barton spelling test, or just don't care what your child receives on tests. It is not worth all the homework time.**

**5. Read to your child every night.** If your child is receiving tutoring do not let them read to themselves unless instructed by the tutor. You do not want your child to develop the bad habit of guessing until they have learned how to decode words. This habit is hard to break.

Pick books at your child's intellect level. Do not turn outside reading into instruction time. Instead, sit on the sofa, put your arm around your child, and make reading to your child a warm, loving activity.

**6. Audio Books are a must.** Even if you are reading to your child, they need their own time to listen.

Always be listening to something.

- While in the car
- Doing legos
- Drawing
- Cleaning their room

This helps with vocabulary, keeping track of complex stories, comprehension, listening skills etc. Find audiobooks by downloading them on-line from the library, use the on-line company [www.LearningAlly.org](http://www.LearningAlly.org) which has a huge literature and text audio library or use Amazon.

**7. Disgraphia or handwriting issues** - If your child has issues with neat writing or it is too laborious for him to write and they are 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or younger use "Handwriting without Tears." – [www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com). (15 minute a day lessons.) If they are older than second grade you need to begin a typing program and use dictation.

**8. Find and develop their strengths and talents.** Children with dyslexia may struggle with language, but they are often exceptionally gifted and talented in one or more of the following areas:

- Art
- Sports
- Music
- Intrapersonal skills
- Science
- Woodworking
- Puzzles
- Cooking
- Building

- Fixing things

Get them involved so they can experience success in other areas. Find their talents and make them an important part of their life.

**9. Educate yourself on dyslexia.** Tutoring will greatly improve your child's reading, spelling, and basic writing skills. But it won't "cure" your child. Dyslexia is a lifelong condition. So you should become an expert on dyslexia – because you'll have to educate a new crop of teachers every year. Also, the better YOU understand it, the more you can help your child understand it.

#### **10. Books and Websites on Dyslexia**

- Equipped for Reading Success by David Kilpatrick
- The Dyslexic Advantage by Brock L. Eide, and Fernette F. Eide
- Overcoming Dyslexia by Sally Shaywitz
- The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan by Ben Foss
- Essentials of Assessing, Preventing and Overcoming Reading Difficulties by David Kilpatrick
- Essentials of Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention by Nancy Mather and Barbara Wendling
- <https://bartonreading.com/>
- <https://dyslexiada.org/>
- <https://www.understood.org/>
- <https://www.dys-add.com/>
- Learningally.com
- <https://www.madebydyslexia.org/>
- <https://education.microsoft.com/en-us/course/30a7b5e8/overview?fbclid=IwAR2Q4IoLK9FjgFOWoKkxZEH4hCaVEtUOINEbIKVTla1OcBaHM6EFlimMsPY>