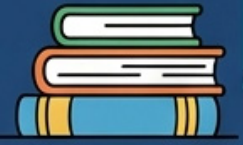


Using Children's Books About Dyslexia to Support Your Child

This handout is designed to support caregivers and educators in using children's books that represent dyslexic readers.



How to Use These Books with Your Child

Many children understand stories better when they hear them read aloud, especially if reading is challenging. Reading together can help build confidence, understanding, and a positive experience with books.

Before Reading (All Ages)

- Look at the cover and title together
- Ask: "What do you think this book might be about?"

During Reading (All Ages)

- Read aloud to your child
- Pause sometimes to ask:
 - ✓ "What's happening here?"
 - ✓ "How is the character feeling?"
 - ✓ "What do you think will happen next?"
- If there is vocabulary your child may not be familiar with, explain what the word means
 - ✓ Try using that word as many times as you can over the next week with your child. You can make it a game and encourage your child to use the new vocabulary word too.
- Keep it relaxed and conversational.
 - ✓ You might ask only one or two questions per book.



After Reading (All Ages)

- Talk about the story
- Ask: "What was your favorite part?"
- Make connections to your child's life
- Draw a picture about the story
- Talk more about a topic from the story
- Look for other books on similar topics at your library
- Watch short videos online about the topic



Keep in Mind

- Your child does not need to read the book on their own. Reading the book together can help them get more out of the story.
- Listening to stories is an important part of learning
- The goal is understanding and enjoyment, not getting every word right
- You can also ask your library about audiobooks or reading support resources

Additional Questions to Support Deeper Thinking

Ages 8+ (Or When Appropriate)

- "How would you feel in that situation?"
- "How would you handle that problem?"
- "Which character do you relate to the most...and why?"
- "What could be another ending to this story?"
- "Is there a lesson we could learn after reading any part of this book?"
- "Does any character change in any way from the beginning of the book to the end?"
- "How are two of the characters similar and different?"
- "If you could ask one of the characters a question, what would it be?"

Ages 12+ (Or When Appropriate)

- "How realistic is this situation or character?"
- "How would the story change if it was told from another character's point of view?"
- "Can you connect this book to another story, movie, or real-life experience?"
- "Did your opinion about a character change from the beginning of the book?"
- "What was the hardest thing to understand in the story and how did you make sense of it?"
- "If you were a character in this book, what role would you have played in this story?"
- "What part of the book was really meaningful to you?"



How Children Learn to Read (and Why Reading Aloud Helps)



Children Develop Reading Skills in Two Main Ways:

1. Learning to Read Words (figuring out how letters and sounds work together)
2. Understanding Language (making sense of stories, words, and ideas)

Reading Aloud Builds Success

Reading aloud helps build understanding, vocabulary, and knowledge. These skills support reading success over time. In fact, if children with reading difficulty are not read to, then over time, their vocabulary and general knowledge decline.

Strength in Understanding

Some children need more support learning to read words, but may still be strong at understanding stories when they hear them.



Why Representation of Dyslexia in Books Matters

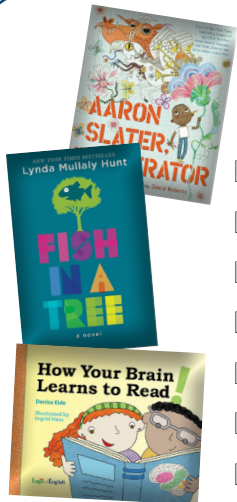
It is important to include dyslexia in children's books so that children can:

- ✓ See characters who learn in different ways
- ✓ Feel understood and supported
- ✓ Build confidence

Reading Together Creates Joy

Reading together helps your child enjoy books now while continuing to build reading skills.

Examples of Children's Books Representing Dyslexia



- 📖 **Aaron Slater, Illustrator** by Andrea Beaty (Grades K-2)
- 📖 **Brilliant Bea** by Shaina Rudolph & Mary Vukadinovich (Grades K-3)
- 📖 **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Grades 5-9)
- 📖 **Hank Zipzer Series** by Henry Winkler & Lin Oliver (Grades 3-7)
- 📖 **How Your Brain Learns to Read** by Denise Eide (Grades K-3)
- 📖 **Thank You, Mr. Falker** by Patricia Polacco (Grades K-3)
- 📖 **A Walk in the Words** by Hudson Talbott (Grades Preschool-3)

