



Library Display Kit

Emily Carley, M.Ed., Lic. PK-12 Literacy Specialist

Nicole Westbom, M.L.I.S., Child & Youth Librarian Specialist

Susan Whitehead, M.L.S., Academic Librarian & Dyslexic/ND

Dyslexic Positive Libraries Initiative



DYSLEXIC POSITIVE+
LIBRARIES INITIATIVE

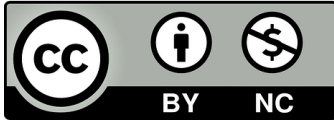
Display Kit

Dyslexic Positive Libraries Initiative

<https://dyslexicpositivelibraries.org>

Forth Edition May 2026

Please Share Creative Commons [CC BY-NC-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)



Printing Guide

Pages 1-6

- frontmatter, printing optional

Pages 7-9

- In color
- **double-sided**
- regular paper, letter size, 8.5x11 inches

Pages 10-15

- In color
- **single-sided**
- regular paper, letter size, 8.5x11 inches

Cover Art

Ceiling of the Sagrada Família basilica by dyslexic architect Antoni Gaudí

cosmicenema. 2011. [Sagrada Familia Ceiling](#). Deviant Art, CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

Eide, Brock, and Fernette Eide. Dyslexia WOW Poster. Dyslexic Advantage. Used with permission.

Acknowledgements

A debt of gratitude is owed to the following people and organizations for generously allowing use of their images and content:

- Brock Eide & Fernette Eide. Dyslexia WOW Poster. Ceiling of the Sagrada Familia by Dyslexic Architect Antonin Gaudi
- Brock Eide & Fernette Eide. Strengths of Dyslexia
- Kate Griggs. Strengths of Dyslexia
- Sally Shaywitz. Signs of Dyslexia
- Women of Rubies. Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock photograph

Citations

Please visit the [DPLI Citation List webpage](#) for a complete list of citation used.



Mission

To make every United States public library dyslexic positive by removing barriers to literacy for neurodiverse patrons and building the cultural competency in libraries. Empower library workers to think like reading scientists and develop programming through a neurodiverse lens while providing practical, affordable, ready-to-go resources through collaborative relationships adaptable to meet every community's needs. DPLI is explicitly dyslexic and neurodiverse positive, and believes all can learn to read.



Forward

Purpose: Dyslexia is neurobiologically based. It is not due to a lack of intelligence or desire to learn or apathy. With effective instruction and access to technology tools, and support such as extra time or note-taking, students with dyslexia can learn to read and write well. Dyslexic learners require step-by-step instruction in foundational skills, such as phonemic awareness, decoding, and spelling, with each concept mastered before moving on. Emily's contributions to The Dyslexia Positive Libraries Toolkit provide expert perspective of instructional materials specific to instruction for dyslexic learners, which benefit all learners in a classroom, small group or 1:1 setting. Many people who have dyslexia and received appropriate instruction say the condition has made them more resourceful, creative and willing to persevere through challenges (International Dyslexia Association IDA 2024). Dyslexics possess many strengths that make them high value thinkers, doers and key teammates in life.

Experience: Emily Carley, M.Ed. is a highly skilled educator. An Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator/Associate (certified 2026) and state licensed professional literacy specialist, Emily has 20 years experience in education, 15 as a dedicated early elementary classroom educator in Vermont public schools. She has served as a literacy consultant for private schools (K-12), and homeschool groups. She is the founder of, The Literacy Spark, LLC. and is currently a specialized literacy instructor (K-12) with a Vermont Public school district teaching 1:1, small group and leading a high school level Core Literacy courses. Emily teaches a master's level course for educators, offers coaching for applying the science of reading into practice. Emily's literacy instruction is scientifically-based, systematic, explicit, multi-sensory and emotionally sound for students of all ages. When she's not teaching, you can find Emily seeking her own adventure. She's quick to take watercolors out of her pack to paint dawns and dusks or venture off to sift through tidepools at the ocean. She frequently challenges herself with new experiences as a writer and content creator, and giving to others in her community. Most recently she's been learning yo-yo-galates, trying to prune an untamable pear tree and seeking new flavors at coffee shop hot spots when traveling, always enjoying conversations around the family table. Emily lives in Montpelier, Vermont.



The Literacy Spark



@theliteracyspark

www.theliteracyspark.org

Created by Emily Carley for The
Dyslexia Positive Toolkit 2025

DISPLAY INSPIRATION



Figure 01. (left) audiobooks & ebooks can be promoted with signs containing a QR code to their catalog record. Smaller versions of these signs can be attached to bookshelves. (middle) Fatigue-resistance reading strips (right) BARD braille and audiobook app available from the Library of Congress. Librarians are certifying authorities, so please sign up your patrons. Expand access at no budgetary cost.

MATERIALS

- Signs, infographics, and bookmarks from the Dyslexic Positive Libraries Initiative
- Guides from the Teach My Kid to Read organization
- Stuffies such as Louie the Dyslexic Squashmellow and the Phonics Readaloud Characters
- Giveaways such as brochures, stickers, and buttons
- BARD audiobook library applications
- Books from the Dyslexic Goodreads Listopia
- Audiobooks and ebooks shared with a QR code
- Graphic novels, illustrated guides, and Hi-Lo books
- Decodable books and evidence-based literacy handbooks

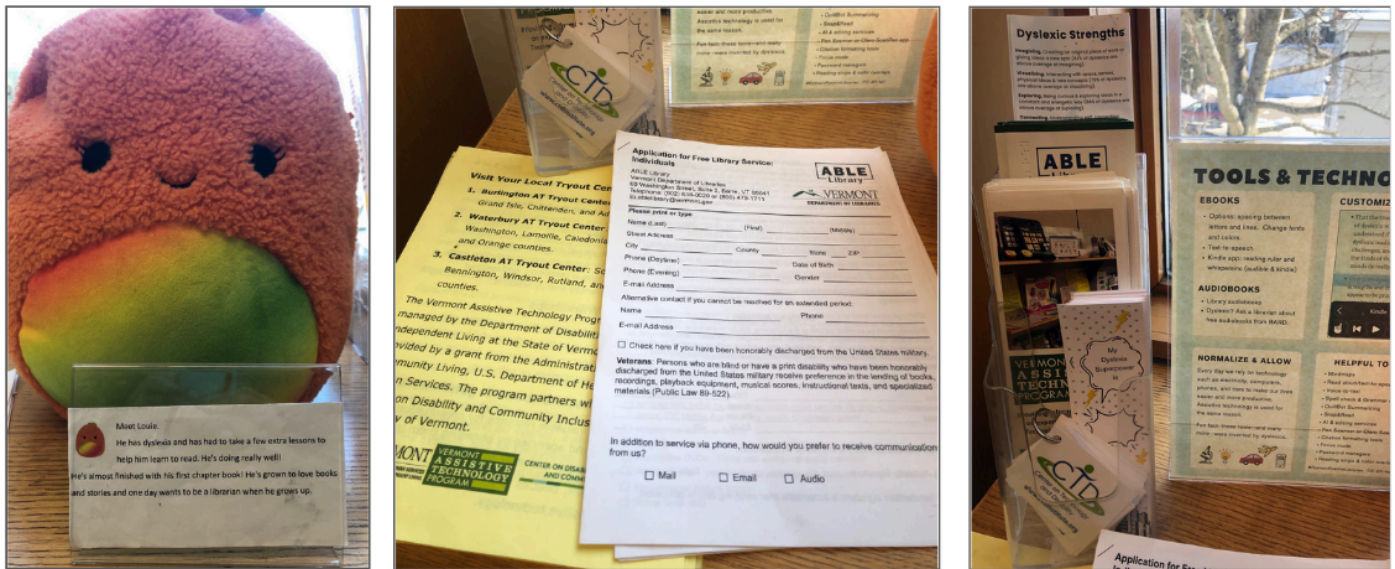
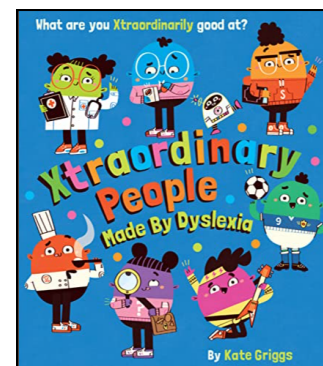
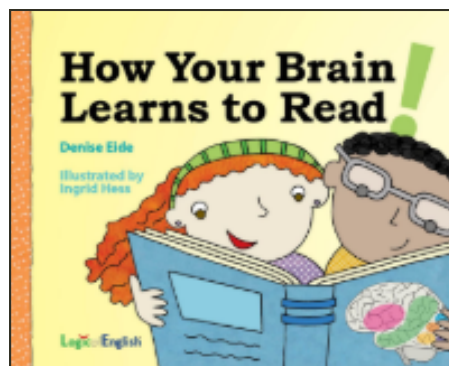
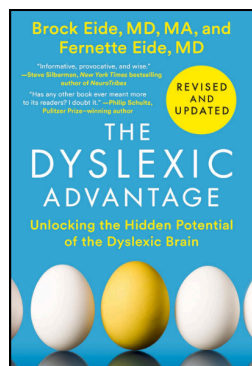
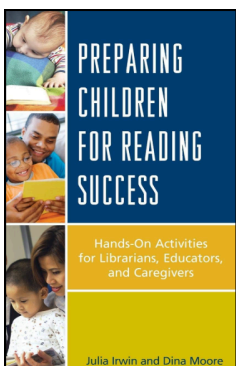


Figure 02. (left) Louie, the dyslexic mango squasmellow who wants to become guy-brarian when he grows up. (center) BARD braille and audiobook app applications. (right) Bookmarks, brochures, literacy handbooks, and empowering infographics.

Outstanding Dyslexic Books

Curated dyslexia, neurodiversity, and literacy books:

- Dyslexia & Neurodiversity 3+
- Dyslexia & Neurodiversity 9+
- Dyslexia & Neurodiversity YA+
- Dyslexia & Neurodiversity Adult
- Effective literacy Handbooks
- Weed or Repurpose List (Discrimination & Ineffective Literacy Methods)



Dyslexic Positive Library



Welcome! This is a
dyslexic positive library.

Neurodiversity makes our world work!

Dyslexic Positive Libraries Initiative www.dyslexicpositivelibraries.org
Please Share Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-SA

Outstanding Dyslexic Stories

Age 5+



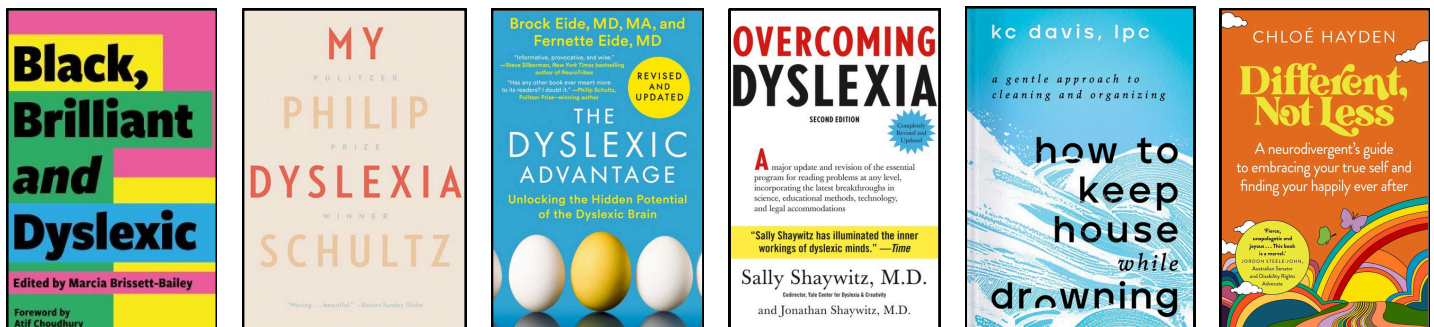
Age 9+



YA Young Adult+



Adult & Nonfiction



Visit the Dyslexic Positive Libraries for more selections
<https://dyslexicpositivelibraries.org/books>

Please Share Creative Commons [CC BY-NC-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)

Spelling Bullying

Having strong spelling skills does not make you smarter or better educated than other people. It means you have a brain that is good at phonological processing.

Likely there are other cognitive tasks you find challenging, such as gestalt processing, lateral thinking, or 3D visual-spatial ability.

The world needs all types of thinkers. Let's treat each other with kindness and respect.

How you can help: avoid making jokes and assumptions, about spelling, grammar, accents, stuttering, word retrieval, or social skills. If you witness bullying, speak up respectfully. E.g. I'm curious, what makes you say that?



Signs of Dyslexia

Preschool

- Trouble learning common nursery rhymes, such as “Jack and Jill”
- Difficulty learning (and remembering) the names of letters in the alphabet
- Seems unable to recognize letters in his/her own name
- Mispronounces familiar words; persistent “baby talk”
- Doesn't recognize rhyming patterns like *cat*, *bat*, *rat*
- A family history of reading and/or spelling difficulties (dyslexia often runs in families)

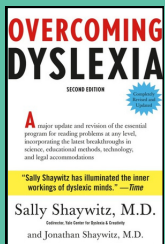
Kindergarten & First Grade

Strengths

- Curiosity
- Great imagination
- Ability to figure things out; gets the gist of things
- Eager embrace of new ideas
- A good understanding of new concepts
- Surprising maturity
- A larger vocabulary than typical for age group
- Enjoys solving puzzles
- Talent for building models
- Excellent comprehension of stories read or told to him

Difficulties

- Reading errors that show no connection to the sounds of the letters on the page—will say “puppy” instead of the written word “dog” on an illustrated page with a picture of a dog
- Does not understand that words come apart
- Complains about how hard reading is; “disappears” when it is time to read
- A history of reading problems in parents or siblings
- Cannot sound out even simple words like *cat*, *map*, *nap*
- Does not associate letters with sounds, such as the letter *b* with the “b” sound



Text from *Overcoming Dyslexia* © Sally Shaywitz. Used with permission.
This infographic should be used with an accompanying print copy of
Overcoming Dyslexia, 2nd edition.

Dyslexic Positive Libraries <https://dyslexicpositivelibraries.org> CC BY-NC-SA



Signs of Dyslexia, Second Grade through High School



FLIP!

Strengths

- Excellent thinking skills: conceptualization, reasoning, imagination, abstraction
- Learning that is accomplished best through meaning rather than rote memorization
- Ability to get the “big picture”
- A high level of understanding of what is read to him
- The ability to read and to understand at a high level overlearned (or highly practiced) words in a special area of interest; for example, if he or she loves cooking they may be able to read food magazines and cookbooks.
- Improvement as an area of interest becomes more specialized and focused—and a miniature vocabulary is developed that allows for reading in that subject area
- A surprisingly sophisticated listening vocabulary.
- Excels in areas not dependent on reading, such as math, computers and visual arts, or in more.

Reading

- Very slow in acquiring reading skills.
- Reading is slow and awkward
- Trouble reading unfamiliar words, often making wild guesses because he cannot sound out the word
- Doesn't seem to have a strategy for reading new words
- Avoids reading out loud.
- Conceptual (versus fact-driven) subjects, including philosophy, biology, social studies, neuroscience and creative writing

Speaking

- Searches for a specific word and ends up using vague language, such as “stuff” or “thing,” without naming the object
- Pauses, hesitates, and/or uses lots of “um’s” when speaking
- Confuses words that sound alike, such as saying “tornado” for “volcano,” substituting “lotion” for “ocean”
- Mispronunciation of long, unfamiliar or complicated words
- Seems to need extra time to respond to questions

School & Life

- Trouble remembering dates, names, telephone numbers, random lists
- Struggles to finish tests on time
- Extreme difficulty learning a foreign language
- Poor spelling
- Messy handwriting
- Low self-esteem that may not be immediately visible

DYSLEXIA

“Dyslexia isn’t a disease. It’s a community.” -Ben Foss



Entertainers

- Robin Williams
- Whoopi Goldberg
- Keanu Reeves
- Jennifer Aniston

Athletes

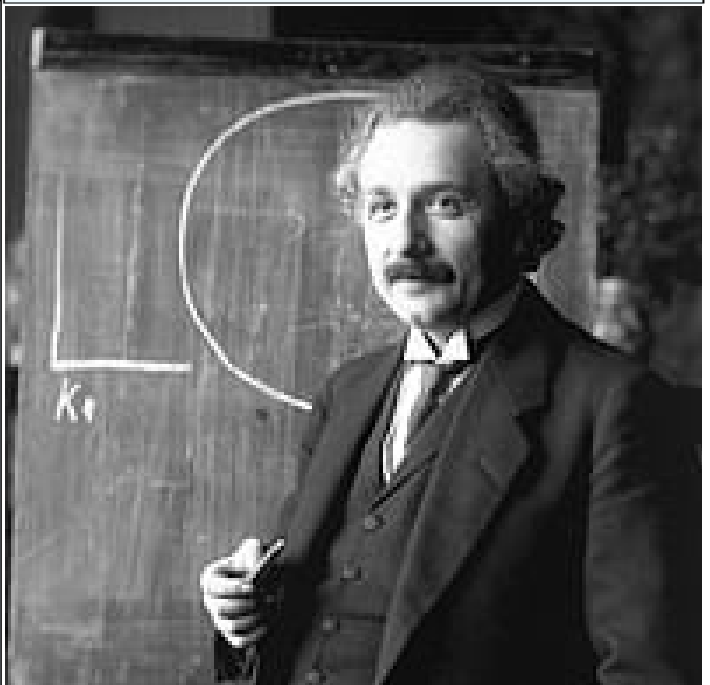
- Caitlyn Jenner
- Muhammad Ali
- Magic Johnson

Scientists

- Carol Greider
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Maggie Aderin-Pocock
- Albert Einstein

Explorers

- Ann Bancroft
- Robbert Ballard
- Jack Horner



Historical figures: Although dyslexia research did not begin in earnest until recently, a review of these individuals’ lives and work indicates a strong likelihood of dyslexic thinking strengths.



Entrepreneurs

Steve Jobs
 Nancy Brinker
 Charles Schwab
 Richard Branson
 Ingvar Kamprad
 Ted Turner
 Tom Cavanaugh
 Ari Emanuel Daymond
 John
 Steve Mariotti
 Douglas Merrill
 Patrick Whaley
 Adam Norris
 Barbara Corcoran
 Craig McCaw
 David Neeleman
 John Reed

Musicians

John Lennon
 Florence Welch
 Cher
 Gwen Stefani
 Alyssa Milano
 Andrae Crouch

Writers

Agatha Christie
 John Irving
 Dav Pilkey
 Avi
 Octavia Butler
 Patricia Polacco
 Philip Schultz

Inventors

Henry Ford
 Thomas Edison
 Alexander G. Bell
 Ben Foss
 Bill Hewlett

Athletes

Meryl Davis
 Brent Sopel
 Sir Jackie Stewart
 Joe Whitt, Jr.
 Tim Tebow
 Scott Sonnon
 Alex Green
 Billy Blanks
 Duncan Goodhew
 Frank Gore

Doctors

Blake Charlton
 Beryl Benacerraf
 Tyler Lucas
 Karen Santucci
 Stuart Yudofsky

Leaders

David Flink
 Keith L. Magee
 Carol Moseley Braun
 John Hickenlooper
 Michael Bennet
 Gavin Newsom
 Erna Solberg
 Gaston Caperton

Entertainers

Nelsan Ellis
 Jay Leno
 Danny Glover
 Henry Winkler
 Octavia Spencer
 Brian Grazer
 Keanu Reeves
 Jenifer Austen
 Fred Newman
 Orlando Bloom
 Edward James Olmos
 Keira Knightley
 Salma Hayek
 Anthony Andrews
 Anthony Hopkins
 Bella Thorne
 Channing Tatum
 David Arquette
 George Burns

Producers

Brian Grazer
 Steven Spielberg
 Henry Winkler
 John Behrens
 Abhishek Bachcha

Artists & Architects

Ansel Adams
 Pablo Picasso
 Richard Rogers
 Jerry Pinkney
 Willard Wigan
 Aakash Odedra

Scientists

Jacques Dubochet
 Baruj Benacerraf

Chefs

Jamie Oliver
 Danny Boome
 Andrew Dornenburg
 Marco Pierre White

Journalists

Gareth Cook
 Richard Engel
 Anderson Cooper
 Byron Pitts
 Christine Finn

Teachers

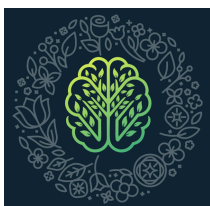
David Schenck
 Liz Ball
 Claudenia Williams

Designers

Henry Franks
 Samuel Botero
 Rebekah Cox
 Tommy Hilfiger

And Many More!

Princess Beatrice
 Erin Brockovich
 Pete Conrad
 Alexander Faludy
 Dominic O'Brien
 Chuck Lotta



Dyslexic Positive Libraries Initiative
<https://dyslexicpositivelibraries.org>

Please Share Creative Commons BY-NC-SA





Fun Facts About Dyslexia!



Dyslexia is just a different way of learning--and that's totally okay!

Quick Facts About Dyslexia for Library Workers

Understanding dyslexia can empower you to change lives in your library.

1. Dyslexia Affects 1 in 5 Students

Roughly 20% of the population has some form of dyslexia, making it one of the most common learning differences. That means many library users—children and adults—may be navigating reading challenges silently

2. It's Not About Intelligence

Students with dyslexia often have average to above-average intelligence. Dyslexia is a language-based learning difference, not a cognitive deficit.

3. Early Signs Can Appear Before Kindergarten

Trouble rhyming, delayed speech, or difficulty learning the alphabet are early clues. Early intervention makes a big difference!

4. Structured Literacy Works Best

Multisensory, explicit, and systematic instruction (like Orton-Gillingham) is proven to help dyslexic learners thrive.

5. Curated Collections Help

Offer hi-lo books, graphic novels, large-print editions, and audiobooks prominently. Clear labeling and displays can guide readers easily.

6. Dyslexic Students Often Excel in Nonlinear Thinking

Many have strengths in spatial reasoning, problem solving, creativity, and out-of-the-box thinking—great assets in STEM and the arts. People with dyslexia are great problem solvers and love figuring out how things work. That's a superpower!



💬 7. Representation Matters

Books with dyslexic characters or stories by dyslexic authors help readers feel seen. (Try: *Fish in a Tree*, *Percy Jackson*, or books by Henry Winkler!)

💬 8. Accommodations Aren't Crutches

Tools like audiobooks, speech-to-text, and extra time aren't shortcuts—they level the playing field. They also help dyslexic readers enjoy literature without struggling through decoding. And yes—they do count as real reading!

🌟 9. Many Innovators and Leaders Are Dyslexic

Think: Steve Jobs, Agatha Christie, Richard Branson, and Steven Spielberg. With the right support, dyslexic learners often become remarkable adults.

🔗 10. Dyslexia Often Comes with Other Learning Differences

It can co-occur with ADHD, dysgraphia, or math challenges (dyscalculia). Holistic support is key.

🎯 11. Dyslexic Students Thrive with Encouragement

Confidence plays a huge role in success. A teacher who believes in them can change everything.

📖 12. Fonts Matter!

Dyslexia-friendly fonts (like OpenDyslexic or Lexend) can make reading easier by reducing visual stress.

🌸 13. You Don't Need to Be an Expert—Be an Ally

A welcoming attitude, flexible policies, and a bit of knowledge go a long way in making libraries inclusive for all learners.

