



THE YALE CENTER FOR  
DYSLEXIA & CREATIVITY  
[www.dyslexia.yale.edu](http://www.dyslexia.yale.edu)

## NEWSLETTER: March 2020

### Today is a very special day for our dedicated diverse community of dyslexia advocates

Today is the day that all of us can open a new book and turn a new page to receive the newest 21st century scientific understanding of dyslexia:

**OVERCOMING  
DYSLEXIA**

SECOND EDITION

Completely Revised and Updated

**A** major update and revision of the essential program for reading problems at any level, incorporating the latest breakthroughs in science, educational methods, technology, and legal accommodations

**"Sally Shaywitz has illuminated the inner workings of dyslexic minds." —Time**

**Sally Shaywitz, M.D.**  
Codirector, Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity  
and Jonathan Shaywitz, M.D.

PRAISE FOR  
**OVERCOMING DYSLEXIA**

"An important book . . . For the first time, scientists are understanding how the brain works . . . in the act of reading. Front and center now is Sally Shaywitz."  
—**THE BALTIMORE SUN**

"Drawing on scientific research and her own case histories, Shaywitz explains what causes dyslexia, how to identify it, and how to help children and adults overcome it. In highly accessible language, Shaywitz explains recent technology and research that pinpoint areas of the brain that control the ability to read . . . [A] tremendously helpful resource."  
—**BOOKLIST**

"Shaywitz demystifies the roots of dyslexia . . . and offers parents and educators hope . . . [Her] groundbreaking work builds an important bridge from the laboratory to the home and classroom."  
—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

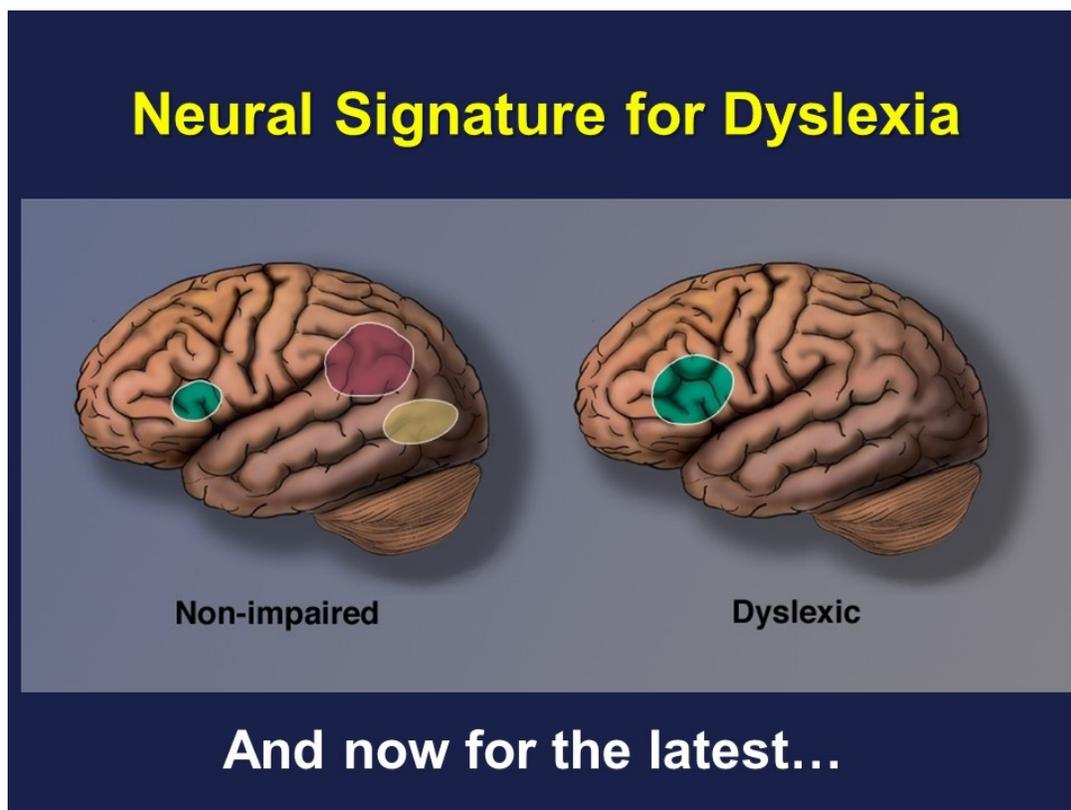
"Sally Shaywitz is an amazing woman, and no one has a better understanding of dyslexia and how it affects young children. Her work in this field is unmatched. One in five children of all classes, genders, and races has dyslexia, and it must be recognized early. These children think fast but read slow, through no fault of their own. Some of them are brilliant, but their brilliance often goes unrecognized. Sally's tireless advocacy for those who have this learning disability has to be an inspiration for anyone who values early learning, systems of intelligence, and how to combat the many false perceptions of dyslexia. Her constant fight to change public policy as it relates to the way dyslexia functions and is understood in the nation's schools should be deeply meaningful to anyone who cares about children in today's world."  
—**BOB DYLAN**

We are so pleased to announce that today, Tuesday, March 24th, is the release date for the revised, updated and expanded edition of [\*Overcoming Dyslexia\*](#). This book brings the reader clear, accessible and helpful 21st century scientific advances in dyslexia and how to use them to advance dyslexic readers and is, at the same time, filled with compassion and empathy. You've demonstrated over and over again how much you love, appreciate and value the first edition of this book. Of particular relevance in these times of social distancing and homebound teaching, *Overcoming Dyslexia* is chock full of tips and resources, including online programs and online reading resources for parents who want the very best for their children. As the author I can

tell you that you will even love the second edition as much, if not more, for its cutting edge updates and meaningful advice. We learned from all of the comments and questions that you have continually shared with us from the first edition. As a result, you will see that, in addition to incorporating the newest data and understanding of dyslexia, we listened to your input and made modifications and additions accordingly.

One more important addition, this second edition is now upgraded and significantly strengthened by having an incredible co-author, Jonathan Shaywitz, MD who is an expert on two very important conditions that very often co-occur with dyslexia - anxiety disorders and attention deficit disorder. Jonathan, a Harvard and UCLA trained psychiatrist not only is incredibly knowledgeable about these disorders, he cares for patients who have these problems and is deeply devoted to using his armamentarium of knowledge to explain and help those who are anxious or inattentive.

This second edition of *Overcoming Dyslexia* examines the scientific basis of dyslexia and provides very practical approaches and specific interventions for parents and educators. More specifically, we first review the nature of reading and dyslexia, beginning with the history of dyslexia and moving forward to review what is known about the neurobiology of dyslexia and reading. This second edition incorporates a new, cutting-edge neural theory of reading and also now includes the most up-to-date studies of brain connectivity in dyslexic children and adults.



Next we discuss translating science into practice, specifically, screening for and diagnosing dyslexia in children and adults, with details for identifying dyslexia in children at different ages. The next section encompasses the specifics of helping your child become a reader, from breaking the reading code to helping him or her become a skilled reader. This leads comfortably to a section focusing on turning struggling readers into proficient readers, and then to very practical and highly relevant sections on choosing a school, for example, what is the most important characteristic to look for in a k-12 school and then focusing on the important transition, in choosing a college or university, including what is the very first place you want to set foot into when you are visiting a college. The concluding section titled "Making it work for the dyslexic child and adult" provides details about the treatments for common comorbid, highly impactful conditions (anxiety and ADHD) and introduces helpful technology. You will be amazed and exceedingly grateful when you read the markedly expanded accommodations chapter and the cutting edge chapter, "The Law is on Your Side" providing the incredibly positive and surprising updates on new laws and the very most up-to-date regulations protecting dyslexic individuals. The final inspiring chapter highlights successful dyslexics in careers ranging from the law, entertainment, medicine, science and literature.

Parents will welcome and breathe a sigh of relief seeing the many activities they can enjoy doing with their now at-home children. They can reinforce what their child is learning in school with very helpful fun activities incorporating practice materials and guidance, for example, in Chapter 18 (Helping Your Child Become a Reader) we detail:

- tackling compound words,
- helpful strategies for breaking up multisyllabic words



*Figure 43. Pulling Apart Longer Words*

When there are two consonants surrounded by a vowel on each side, imagine the vowels pulling the consonants apart. Shown here is this strategy applied to the word *magnet*.

© Sally Shaywitz, M.D. *Overcoming Dyslexia* 2nd edition  
(Knopf, 2020)

- word lists of the most common prefixes, including the 9 prefixes accounting for 75% of all prefixed words
- an easy step-by-step simple process on how to learn and remember the most common sight words found in books, including a list of the 150 most common found in books,
- helpful online programs teaching phonemic awareness and phonics,
- a significant, 15-page section on what to do at home with your child.

Other particularly relevant chapters for parents to do with their child at home include:

- Chapter 17 Helping Your Child Break the Reading Code and
- Chapter 19 Helping Your Child Become a Skilled Reader.

Each chapter is filled with examples of how to choose the right books for your child, names and links to online reading materials that will encourage his or her progress and how to best go about reading with your child so s/he enjoys it and learns to read better and better.

Also included are illustrated sections on developing an awareness of rhyme, separating words into syllables and syllables into phonemes and a very helpful section "The A to Z of Teaching Beginning Reading." Included, too, are online resources, including games the beginning reader can play to help master and improve his/her reading.

There is a full chapter (Chapter 21) dedicated to Teaching the Dyslexic Child to Read, including each component of reading, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. Included here, too, are very helpful online programs teaching phonemic awareness and phonics and a section on moving from accuracy to fluency.

Recognizing that there are so many homes with dyslexic children who are in high school, who are beginning to or are in the midst of thinking about college, and who wonder as a dyslexic how to select a college, how to prepare for college and what to do once in college. These dyslexic students may find of particular interest three new chapters:

- Chapter 26 (Succeeding in Post-Secondary Education),
- Chapter 27 (Selecting a College) and
- Chapter 28 (In College: Getting Started).

You will find the book is, as its author is, devoted to helping parents in the most useful, basic ways that are fun and make a difference to their child who is dyslexic.

[Order your copy today.](#)

Smile and think about how good you will feel helping your child who is at home now all day not only doing fun activities but improving his or her reading skills and how good he or she will feel.



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