

MODULE 5

Learning Disabilities: Dyslexia Ref.: © 2006 Possibilities, Inc.

*The following activities have been taken from **Activities and Resources for Teaching Students About Disabilities** by Bev Adcock and Michael L. Remus.*

Learning disabilities affect the brain's ability to receive, process, analyze, or store information. There are many different kinds of learning disabilities, for example Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and they can range from mild to severe. Here we look at Dyslexia.

Activity 1 gives a general idea what it is like to have to struggle against what your brain may be telling you.

Dyslexia can cause a person to see letters switched around when they read (seeing “bule” instead of “blue”, for example).

Activity 2 will give you an idea of what this is like.

Activity 1 - Say what?

Transfer the next page onto an overhead transparency. Have the class read it out loud. They must read the COLOR the word is written in, not the word itself.

Afterward, **discuss** how your brain wants to read the actual word. Even when you can make yourself do it correctly, you have to read much slower than normal. This is an example of how difficult it is for students with learning disabilities to get through the day. Their brain understands what needs to be done, but they have to struggle to make it come out right.

Not being able to do this activity correctly does not mean you are not smart. It just means that your brain wants to do something different.

Activity 2 - Backwards

Write a number of different sentences backwards on a piece of paper. Giving them very little time, ask different students to read them correctly. Keep interrupting the student by urging them to hurry or tell them “This should be easy for you.”

Example:

“ehT kcalb tac tas no eht toh nit foor”

“The black cat sat on the hot tin roof.”

Discuss:

What were the difficulties faced in deciphering the sentence? Did being told to hurry help or make it harder? What would have helped?

YELLOW BLUE

ORANGE

BLACK RED GREEN

PURPLE YELLOW

RED

ORANGE GREEN

BLACK

BLUE RED PURPLE

GREEN BLUE

ORANGE