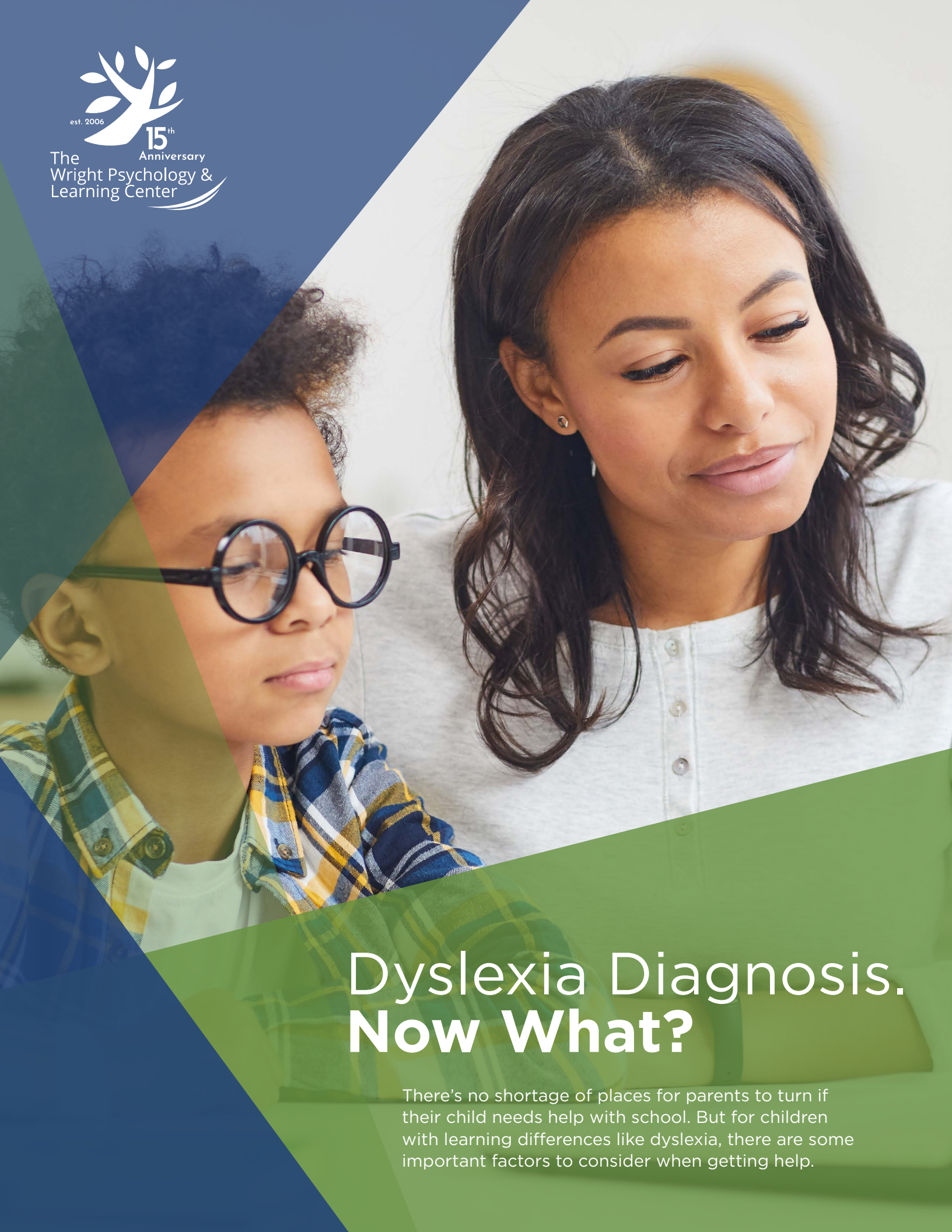




15th
Anniversary
The
Wright Psychology &
Learning Center



Dyslexia Diagnosis. Now What?

There's no shortage of places for parents to turn if their child needs help with school. But for children with learning differences like dyslexia, there are some important factors to consider when getting help.

“In the hands of a well-trained and experienced instructor, [Orton-Gillingham] is a powerful tool of exceptional breadth, depth, and flexibility.”

– Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators

How can parents best navigate their options?

There are many programs available to teach literacy when reading, writing, and spelling do not come easily to students. But if a student has been diagnosed with dyslexia (or dyslexia is suspected), it's important to pursue a program that follows the tenets of Structured Literacy and uses a multi-sensory approach – like Orton-Gillingham.

When researching an approach, or to access an instructor or therapist, look for programs that have been accredited. The International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) holds their accredited courses to rigorous standards and certifies qualified individuals who meet these standards. Other reliable resources for programs serving dyslexics are found through the International Dyslexia Association.

What is Orton-Gillingham?



The Orton-Gillingham Approach is a multisensory, structured, and sequential way to teach literacy.

The approach is named after Samuel T. Orton and Anna Gillingham. Orton was a neuropsychiatrist and pathologist and a pioneer in studying reading

failure and language processing difficulties. He's credited with identifying the syndrome of dyslexia as early as 1925. Gillingham was an educator and psychologist. She compiled and published instructional materials in the 1930s which became the foundation for the Orton-Gillingham approach.

Today there are many well-known Orton-Gillingham-based literacy intervention programs. But perhaps the most widely-used methodology is the Barton Reading & Spelling System.

What is the Barton Reading & Spelling System?



The Barton system is an Orton-Gillingham-based program developed by Susan Barton. Like other programs based on O-G, Barton is a multi-sensory, structured literacy intervention. It encourages students to use multiple senses to make connections between sounds and words. Barton expanded the traditional O-G approach, adding phonemic awareness activities and building fluency through repeated reading exercises.

The efficacy of the Barton Reading & Spelling system has been proven through peer-reviewed research. More than 15 independent studies from public and private

schools across the country provide a fascinating look at how it has improved students' abilities, confidence – and test scores.

BARTON: SIMPLIFIED. Here's how it works, put simply:

1. There are 10 levels in the program.
2. All students start at the same level and follow a structured, sequential teaching plan.
3. A typical session is one-on-one and lasts 50 minutes.
4. Each lesson has 17 steps.
5. If a student can't complete the 17 steps within a session, the lesson continues at the next session.
6. Students are assessed at the end of each level.
7. They don't move on unless they show mastery of what they have been taught.
8. It can take between two and four years of twice-weekly sessions for students to complete all 10 levels.

How do I know if my child is a good candidate for the Barton system? Is there a recommended age?

The Barton System was designed as intervention for students:

- Who struggle to easily and accurately decode words when reading (despite being taught phonics),
- Who by second grade are slow and inaccurate readers (are missing the oral reading fluency benchmarks), and
- Who have always struggled with spelling – especially when writing sentences, stories, and compositions.

Students as young as kindergarten are eligible, but often, their struggles may not become apparent until first, second, or even third grade. Older students and adults can benefit from the Barton System, but early intervention is beneficial. Kindergarten and first grade are ideal windows of opportunity to prevent long-term reading problems. Without early intervention, the reading gap between struggling readers and their peers continues to widen over time.

Benefits of Barton:

- ***Multi-sensory, structured literacy intervention***
- ***Proven efficacy through peer-reviewed research***
- ***Consistent with Science of Reading data findings and philosophy***
- ***Instructor certification***

Can students do group sessions? Or is it one-on-one?

Maximum group size is 3, but one-on-one tutoring is considered ideal. This ensures an instructor can present the material at exactly the right pace for each student. Also, it is much less embarrassing to make a mistake when only the instructor sees it – not other students.

What does it cost to hire a certified instructor?

Fees vary based on experience and certifications. Be wary of “value” options provided by commercial learning centers that don’t use proven systems or credentialed professionals. Often this leads to families having to “start over” and re-invest in a more effective solution.



What should parents ask before hiring anyone to help their student with dyslexia?

1. *Do you use a structured literacy, multi-sensory approach (i.e. an Orton-Gillingham-based system)?* Data shows that for students with dyslexia, this structured, intensive approach is what’s needed.

2. *Are you certified?* This confirms that the instructor has completed special testing by the developer of the system that they’re using it properly.

“Parents Beware: Anyone can call themselves a tutor. But most tutors do not use an Orton-Gillingham-based system. Unfortunately, neither do most reading, resource, or learning specialists. If they do not use an Orton-Gillingham-based system – they will not have much success if the student has dyslexia.”

– Susan Barton, creator of the Barton Reading & Spelling System

About the Wright Psychology & Learning Center



The Learning Center @ Wright Psychology is made up of a team of professional Academic Instructors. With more credentialed instructors than any other practice state-wide, we are passionate about our mission of helping kids succeed in school and in life.

Learn more @
wrightchildpsychology.com

Follow us
@wrightpsychology

Ready to get started?

Here's how:

Step 1

Contact us

Email admin@wrightchildpsychology.com

or Call (502) 807-9551

Step 2

Make a Plan

We will design a treatment plan based upon your child's individual needs.

Step 3

Begin Lessons

Partner with your new instructor and your school.

Step 4

See your child grow into a confident reader!

As Seen On:



International Dyslexia Association

Kentucky Psychological Association



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