

# Dyslexia WA Newsletter

harness the gift

dyslexiawa.com.au

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Newsletter of Dyslexia Correction Service trading as Dyslexia WA; Contact (618) 9591 3482; 0439 698 587; 0479 121 163. email dyslexiacorrectionwa@gmail.com. Annette Johnston: Licensed Davis Facilitator

## Kiah to take his family to Australia Zoo

Frank Johnston

**Kiah Gearing's improved skills are providing a bonus, this time for the whole family.**

Rain in the last holidays kept Kiah inside so he decided to enter a Foxtel competition featuring Robert Irwin's (dad of Steve) new animal science show.



Besides a computer colour exercise, Kiah had to research some information about kangaroos and write about them.

The popular competition attracted many entries, however Kiah's research uncovered a very interesting fact about kangaroos... that is they are not nocturnal but in fact crepuscular!!

(I had to check this one out too, and it means they are more active at dawn and dusk, twilight time,... not so much in the night.)

Anyhow, Kiah's efforts have resulted in him being the sole winner of flights and accommodation for the family to Australia Zoo.

Best wishes... we look forward to a report on the trip Kiah.



**Ashley and Ben's  
Firewood 4 Sale!**



**BIG BAGS of jarrah**

(1.5 x Bunnings' bags) **only \$12**

Delivery available **0423 796 445**

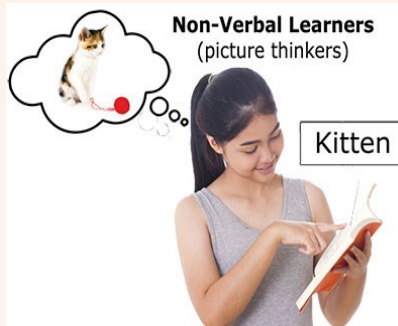
## Dyslexia - Disability or Gift?

From Meg Fortune McDonnell / Sonoma County Gazette

What do **Albert Einstein, Picasso** and **Walt Disney** have in common? Loads of talent, for sure. But you might be surprised to learn that their talents had something of a common source: they are all dyslexics. Most of us think of dyslexia as a disadvantage, rather than an advantage--but a new insight into dyslexia is changing that understanding.

**David Rosen**, a Northern California dyslexia specialist, says those "because they think mainly in pictures rather than words, dyslexics are highly imaginative, inventive, and show signs of real genius in their chosen fields. They think in a multi-dimensional way." Rosen goes on to contend, "Most people might think that these well-known geniuses were successful *despite* dyslexia, but I believe that they were successful *because* of the gift of visual - spatial thinking that allows dyslexics to explore ideas and concepts in multi-dimensional ways."

Dyslexia is a product of a particular way of thinking, and a unique way of reacting to the confusion created by not being able to decipher through visual means, things like letters, numbers, punctuation marks and sight words. Conventional teaching methods, geared to the way the brain works in the majority of people, just don't work for dyslexics, who are visual learners, often leaving them feeling frustrated and stupid.



Dyslexics can function at full capacity if they are taught to read, write, and speak by using methods that draw on their unique strengths. As actor Orlando Bloom, yet another famous dyslexic, has said, "Dyslexia is not due to lack of intelligence, it's a lack of access." One 14 year old high school student Rosen worked with said, "I am speaking so much more clearly and what I say makes more sense to other people. My mom even understands me. The other day I wrote an essay for school. When I read it, I could not believe that it was me who wrote it!"

He recently worked with a 16 year old girl who said in the initial assessment, "I am so frustrated! I love to tell stories and write about things going on in my head and imagination ... can you help me do this?" For Rosen, this is the epitome of the frustration dyslexic experience. "There is enormous potential creativity, originality and even genius in dyslexics. But, they experience great frustra-

tion in not being able to incarnate that creative impulse in their lives.

"The full effects of dyslexia are just not very well understood," Rosen points out. "When I assess school children, for example, I have the parents sit in. Often, the kids will tell me things about what happens when they try to read. They say things like, 'The words are fuzzy and blurry.'" Or they see letters turned around and flipped; or insert words that are not there; they get really disoriented and confused. The parents are just amazed. They didn't understand the full extent of what was going on."

Dyslexia carries with it a great deal of shame to the dyslexic's self-confidence. "Last year, I worked with a 65 year old woman who was running a successful business. She came to see me because she was struggling with her communications with both her employees and her clients. Several days into the program, she burst into tears, pouring out the incredible frustration and complication she felt about her life-long struggle with dyslexia.

That's an example of how helping people correct their dyslexia makes a huge difference in their lives," says Rosen.

See the full article at: <http://www.sonomacountygazette.com/cms/pages/categories-rtn-sonoma-col-arg1-Columns-arg2-Health and Well Being-article-3862.htm>



# Sir Richard Branson's heart warming letter to 9 year old girl with dyslexia

From Lana Clements UK Daily and Sunday Express :

**Honor Smith wrote** to the British business tycoon to thank him for posting videos on dyslexia, which she said had made her feel much more confident at school.

In a heartfelt hand-written letter, the child from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, also told how she initially thought her life was ruined when her parents told her she had dyslexia.

In reply, Sir Richard told how having dyslexia had been a gift in his life.

The businessman dropped out of school when he was 16 years old, in part because he is dyslexic, before going on to build his Virgin business empire.

He said: "If anyone ever puts you down for having dyslexia, don't believe them. Being dyslexic can actually be a big advantage, and it has certainly helped me."

The British billionaire posted the letters on his website and added "your life definitely isn't ruined".

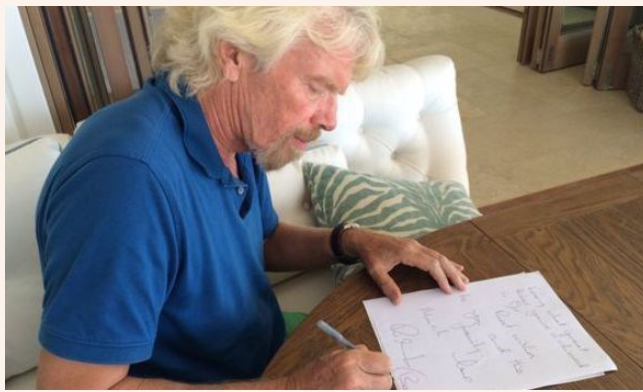
He also mentioned how historical figures Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Ted Turner and Albert Einstein had dyslexia - and told the little girl she was in "good company".

He said that while awareness about dyslexia is growing, it can still hold many people back.

The video shows a number of successful and famous people who have dyslexia, including Professor Stephen Hawking, John Lennon and Keira Knightley - and Sir Richard.

It aims to encourage children to see their condition as a gift.

Sir Branson said that the video helped to highlight the positives of dyslexia and helped to 'Shake the Shame'.



**Richard Branson has written to a 9-year-old with dyslexia** See the article and the letters at:

<http://www.express.co.uk/finance/city/584624/Sir-Richard-Bransons-pens-heart-warming-letter-to-nine-year-old-girl-dyslexia>

## Davis at the Autism Society National Conference and Exposition

By *Elsie Johnson and Susan Smarjesse, Davis Facilitators in the United States*

The Davis Autism Approach took a front place at the 45th Autism Society National Conference and Exposition in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, July 22-26, 2014.

Davis Facilitators from Illinois, Italy, Montana, Indiana/Hong Kong, Michigan, and Pennsylvania connected visitors with answers, visual banners, handouts, clay models, videos, a NOIT demonstration, and the book, *Autism and The Seeds of Change* by Abigail Marshall, with Ronald D. Davis.

Our visuals, explanations on standup banners, and a clay figure of *self* helped adults, children, parents, grandparents, educators, and service providers see, hear, and feel the difference the Davis Approach provides.

Exchanges with fellow exhibitors likewise revealed how the Davis Approach plants the seeds of change and allows other therapies to attach more naturally and quickly.

Participants departed carrying handouts about program description, coach and professional training, clipboards and keyrings – and most importantly, the experience of meeting and sharing.

Many purchased the book, *Autism and The Seeds of Change*.

Of the many book-affle registrants, an autistic college broadcasting student desiring the help it can provide, won his own copy of the book.

Now the seeds of change of the Davis Approach to Autism have been planted nationally!

Let each of us scatter the seeds – again and again.



Susan Smarjesse is a Davis Facilitator in Springfield, Illinois. You can learn more about her services at her web site, [www.readingsolution.com](http://www.readingsolution.com)



Elsie Johnson is a Davis Facilitator and Autism Facilitator/Coach in Manhattan, Montana. You can learn more about her services at her web site, [www.thelearningoptions.com](http://www.thelearningoptions.com)

**\*\* Annette Johnston is completing the study course on the Davis Approach to Autism and hopes to have this procedure available in Western Australia as soon as 2016.**

**"Autism and the Seeds of Change" is available through Amazon and other booksellers.**

