

Dyslexia WA Newsletter

harness the gift

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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

February chat time draws near

A minimum of 12 starters is needed for our February 9 conference to go ahead.

It is one opportunity in the year for adults and children concerned with the difficulties involved in dealing with dyslexia to gather to share ideas and experiences.

All who have some interest in dyslexia either because of their own experiences or they know of others who have dyslexia are welcome to come along to contribute or just listen.

As with last year Annette will provide some 'food for thought' and will also answer questions or go into some explanations regarding



the root causes and successful strategies in working with dyslexia.

It is only a 2 hour session from 10 am to 12 noon on the Saturday morning in the conference room at The Business Centre, 33 Crompton Road Rockingham. (Take in a

movie or do some shopping at the great Rockingham City Shopping Centre after!)

Last year many people made great contributions (including the junior participants) and took the opportunity to share ideas and contact numbers.

One of the things I'd like to start is a register of those people who have done the course and who are happy to be contacted by others considering their options and not sure what to do - or what the Davis course is like.

Please call, email or text if you are likely to attend (we have a small number of starters). Just provide a 'Y' plus your name and the number coming.

Thank you.

Jenny Can't Read - a powerful story from the UK

Frank Johnston

Although I haven't read it, co author Kevin Clarke appears right on the money with his newly published book about dyslexic school students and their struggles with self esteem

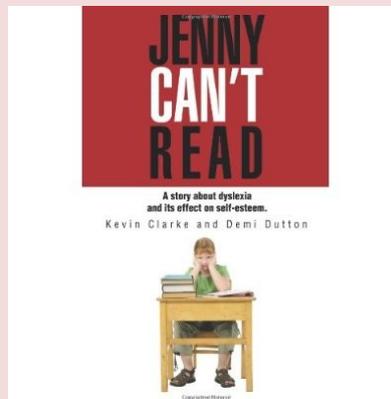
Kevin has been in touch through email and I'll let him take up the story...

"I would however like to make an offering. In your newsletter you asked for ideas and strategies about self-esteem. In "Jenny Can't Read" the brilliant teacher explains self-esteem to Jenny, and how important it is and how she intends to help Jenny improve hers.

"Here are a few ideas:

1. The starting point is to know that nearly all children who are dyslexic have low self-esteem. Low self-esteem affects confidence, self-belief, motivation, the ability to make the right life choices and just about all aspects of life. One definition of a prison is, "A group of people with low self-esteem".

2. Know that self-esteem can be raised. A child's self-esteem improves when



Jenny Can't Read: A Story About Dyslexia and Its Effect on Self-esteem

they receive Praise, Encouragement or Approval. (PEA)

3. PEA is more powerful when the person giving it is cheerful, enthusiastic and shows warmth and empathy.

4. A good teacher raises self-esteem.

5. Children can be taught to let positives in, because they often won't. You fail to let a positive in when you disagree with it in some way. eg. "I think you're clever"

and the reply is "you must be joking, I'm not". You let a positive in by saying "thank you" eg. "I think you're a star"... reply "Thank you." Children can be taught this. Some positives don't attract replies. "Well done", "brilliant", "I'm so impressed"

6. Some of the best positives are ones that are passed on." I was speaking to your English teacher and s/he was really impressed with a piece of work you have done". Schools can seek to have a self-esteem raising climate.

"I can remember years ago trying a little experiment when all teachers were asked to target the self esteem of a student who hated school and had a lot of problems. The girl was praised at every opportunity. At the end of the week she said to her form tutor, "do you know something Miss, I've just had my best ever week at school". Co-incidence? "

Kevin's co author, Demi, was an 11 year old with a reading age of 5. After Demi said "There's one thing I would love to be able to do, but I know it will never happen in my whole life, and that is to write a book", Kevin volunteered to work with her to produce "Jenny Can't Read".

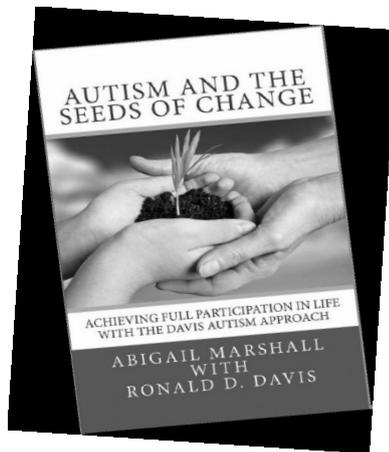
See over page...

Autism and the Seeds of Change

Achieving Full Participation in Life with the Davis Autism Approach

Abigail Marshall and Ronald D. Davis
Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (October 24, 2012)
ISBN-10: 1479373346
ISBN-13: 978-1479373345

Abigail Marshall and Ron Davis have written a wonderful book that is a must-read for anyone looking for a fresh approach to the understanding and treatment of autism. It is not a how-to guide, but rather a guide to understanding what the Davis Autism Approach® Program is all about.

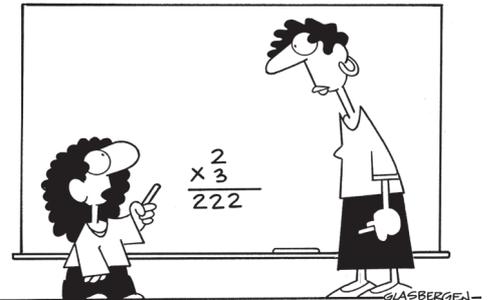


The Davis approach to helping autistic individuals participate fully in life comes from Ron Davis's own experience. He was labelled a "Kanner's baby" in infancy, and declared to be uneducably men-

tally retarded at age 12.

In October Annette attended, In Paris, an introductory week to the Davis approach to resolving autism... she was most impressed.

We look forward to Annette's summary at the February 9 conference (and her views on Paris!)



"What do you mean, it's the wrong kind of right?"

Dyslexia's hidden pleasures

FIONA CHIN-YEE

The Globe and Mail

Published Monday January 7, 2013

The teacher came up behind the little girl and looked down at the page. "Why did you not do your work?" she asked. "I did do it," the child replied. "But there are no words written down here," the teacher insisted. "I know." A short silence, and then in a voice that was patient and calm, the little one explained: "They all ran off the page and hid under the carpet."

I was standing in Chapters reading from a book about dyslexia. I had never heard such a perfect description of what letters and words can do when you give them a bit of freedom.

I was born in 1952, but it was not until about 1968 that the word dyslexia came into my life. Before that, many other words were used, none of them very complimentary. Three that stood out were stupid, lazy and defiant.

Most of the teachers I had were determined to drive out these three demons, subjugate my brain and bring on the angels of conformity. At school, I was put in the corner wearing a dunce cap, locked

in rooms and ridiculed in front of my peers. At home, I was sent to bed without supper and made to stay up at night.

But there were also memorable teachers whom I loved, because they listened to me and tried to understand. They knew I was not stupid or lazy. They affirmed my inner belief that I was clever and had a future.

I often wondered how I had this confidence. Now, I realize it was firmly grounded in my very early years, thanks to my parents, my grandmother and a Montessori school.

I never had difficulty reading to myself. Before Grade 1, reading was a way to get interesting stuff into my brain. Nouns, or objects, took form before my eyes. Verbs, or actions, activated the nouns into wonderful, swirling, living movies. The little words did not matter: articles, conjunctions and other fillers could be dispensed with. They were there only to ease conversation.

But then came *Dick and Jane*. Every little word in those books was equal, and nothing ever happened. The world was diminished; it disappeared down a black hole. Letters became meaningless symbols whose order was paramount since they had only one way of functioning. They tyrannized my life for 12 years and

inconvenienced me forever.

You can read more of this great article at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/dyslexias-hidden-pleasures/article7012001/>

From the front page...

Kevin gives a summary of the book:

"The first part of the book deals with a number of issues related to dyslexia, including:

- Thinking there is something wrong with you. You are stupid.
- Dreading certain lessons and pretending to be sick
- Having an unsympathetic teacher
- Being picked on by other children
- Worrying all the time and feeling ashamed
- Hating school

"In the second half of the book Jenny gets help and improves a lot. Issues include:

- Getting help
- Understanding dyslexia and how to improve
- The effect of a brilliant teacher
- Dealing with bullying
- Improving self esteem and confidence
- Developing friendships"

**** Jenny Can't Read is available from Amazon.com and I have put in my order.**