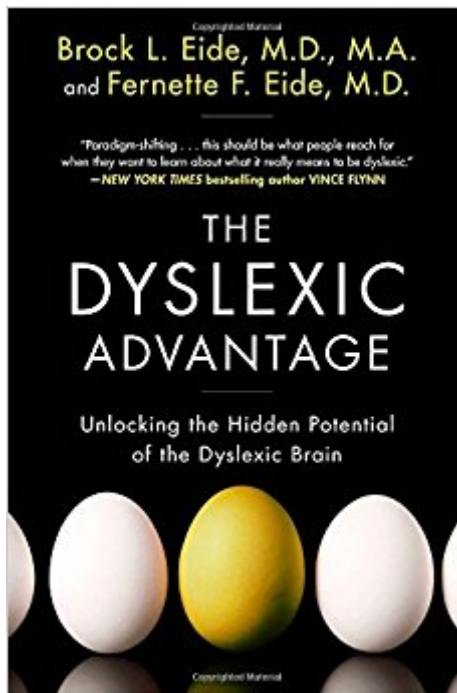




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# The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking The Hidden Potential Of The Dyslexic Brain



## Synopsis

"A must read for parents, educators, and people with dyslexia." -Gordon F. Sherman, Ph.D., Past-President International Dyslexia Association Did you know that many successful architects, lawyers, engineers – even bestselling novelists – had difficulties learning to read and write as children? In this groundbreaking book, Brock and Fernet Eide explain how 20% of people – individuals with dyslexia – share a unique learning style that can create advantages in a classroom, at a job, or at home. Using their combined expertise in neurology and education, the authors show how these individuals not only perceive the written word differently but may also excel at spatial reasoning, see insightful connections that others simply miss, understand the world in stories, and display amazing creativity. Blending personal stories with hard science, *The Dyslexic Advantage* provides invaluable advice on how parents, educators, and individuals with dyslexia can recognize and use the strengths of the dyslexic learning style in: material reasoning (used by architects and engineers); interconnected reasoning (scientists and designers), narrative reasoning (novelists and lawyers); and dynamic reasoning (economists and entrepreneurs.) With prescriptive advice and inspiring testimonials, this paradigm-shifting book proves that dyslexia doesn't have to be a detriment, but can often become an asset for success.

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## Customer Reviews

"A compelling call to action." – *Scientific American Mind* "This is probably the most helpful material ever published on dyslexia." – *Manuel Casanova, M.D.* "A must read

for parents, educators, and people with dyslexia." — Gordon F. Sherman, Ph.D.,  
Past-President International Dyslexia Association

If you ask contractors, engineers, rocket scientists, or even famous mystery novelists if they had trouble with reading in school, an astonishing number will answer: "Yes, how did you know?" Authors Brock and Fernette Eide know why people in these professions tend to have had difficulties with reading and writing. The cause is simple: their brains are different. Individuals who have dyslexia, whether it is mild or severe, think uniquely about what they see and learn in their everyday lives, whether it's in a classroom, at a job, or in their own home. In this revolutionary book, the Eides use new brain science and their expertise in neurology and learning disorders to explain how individuals with dyslexia not only perceive the written word differently, but also conceive space more intuitively, see connections between unrelated objects, and are able to make great leaps creatively that others simply miss. Presenting a variety of case studies and true stories to support the science, *The Dyslexic Advantage* demonstrates that each individual with dyslexia is unique, and faces specific challenges while, at the same time, experiences remarkable talent and ability. Carefully explaining how four areas dyslexics excel in appear in the activities of children and adults, the Eides provide useful advice on how to maximize an individual's potential in: material reasoning (used by architects and engineers); interconnected reasoning (scientists and designers), narrative reasoning (novelists and lawyers); and dynamic reasoning (economists and entrepreneurs.) Putting emphasis on the advantages of the dyslexic brain rather than the well-trod challenges with reading and writing, the Eides blend advice from successful individuals who learned to excel at "being dyslexic" with findings from their research that parents, educators, and individuals with dyslexia can use to help maximize their dyslexic advantage. Providing the first complete portrait of dyslexia, the Eides show that it is not a condition people have, but rather a part of who someone is — which can be cultivated as a great strength. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Now "THIS" is the book I have been waiting for. As a dyslexic myself and the parent of at least one dyslexic (and gifted) child - this book is life changing, especially in terms of the educational outlook for my children. The Eides have done what so many "claim" to do in their books, but never really get there. They show clear, concrete, and proven advantages to the way the brain works for dyslexics, and shows why those advantages have "trade offs" when it comes to learning things such as reading, writing, and spelling. Basically, the way the dyslexic brain works, people with dyslexia tend to be much, much better than average in four particular areas - described as the M.I.N.D. areas.

These cover things such as being able to see objects in 3D and manipulate them on one's mind (a great skill for Engineers, designers, builders, etc.), the ability to see advanced and complex connections between things (an amazing skill for systems engineers, entrepreneurs, psychologists, lawyers, etc.), amazing long term memory, etc. While these advantages are amazing, great, needed, and should be utilized to the best of one's ability - these advantages are there because the dyslexic brain is wired in such a way to support them. The down side is this wiring is the most inefficient way to learn the skills of reading, writing, and spelling. While those are true downsides, that doesn't mean dyslexic individuals can't learn to read, write, and spell - most do. The Eides just show a much better route to those skills. Another BIG thing I love about this book is how they extensively cover accommodations (like speech-to-text software and digital books). In most dyslexic individuals, there will be a point in which one reaches diminishing returns in terms of reading, writing, and spelling - no matter how much intervention they won't get any better than that point. However, that doesn't mean their learning must stop - the proper accommodations will allow these individuals to reach their full potential in life. And surprisingly, the full potential of a dyslexic is actually more "successful" than a non-dyslexic. Dyslexic individuals are over represented in the top tiers among almost all professions - especially the sciences, engineering, and creative fields (writing, acting, art, music, etc.). Yes, dyslexics who struggle with reading and writing turn out to be amazing writers of everything from fiction to fantasy books (and I suppose one accommodation is hiring a good editor who can see past the spelling mistakes to the amazing content). The last part of the book deals with the best ways of teaching reading, spelling, and writing to dyslexic individuals - from elementary to college to adults in the workplace. The advice and tips are amazing and I plan on incorporating many of them immediately into our homeschooling plans. They also cover proper accommodations depending on the skill and level of the individual. Another important point of this section is to also encourage the strengths of individuals with dyslexia. Again - there is going to be a point of diminishing returns in teaching reading and writing based skills - so also focus on those areas in which dyslexic individuals thrive. Another area is the best educational options for gifted individuals. Now this will be the area many parents will struggle with. The truth is traditional school environments are NOT set up to accommodate dyslexic individuals. It isn't for lack of want, but many educational institutions just don't fully understand dyslexia for what it is, and what it isn't. As a result, the best fits for dyslexic students (at least for some time in their educational years) might be special education classrooms (those that focus on education and not so much behavior I am assuming), schools that specialize in teaching dyslexic students, private schools that allow children to work at their own pace (think Sundry or Reggio or Montessori), and finally homeschooling. The

final chapter and another gem of this book is the resources section. It has websites and resources to cover the tips they described in the text. A lot of thought and and research, and I believe passion and love went into this book. Again, it really will be a life changer for many individuals with dyslexia (heck, there is even a section that covers adult dyslexics in the workplace!)

We had no idea that this type of research was done and was very thankful to the authors for putting it in this book, which is a bit hard to get through because of all the terms used but other than that I was intrigued and couldn't put the book down until I got to the back where advice was given for parents of dyslexic children or students going to college, etc. since it didn't apply to us. What amazed me was the studies of the brain that show there are physical differences in the dyslexic brain which actually do give the person advantages over the non-dyslexic brain. I ordered this book because I recently figured out that my husband of 4 years is dyslexic. He has gone all his life not being able to read well. No one he knows ever suggested that this was a possibility. He's 67 so back when he was in school they didn't know about this condition and figured he was just slow. He is 1/2 Native American and he figured it was because of the prejudiced teachers back then. They had all kinds of negative things to say about him so of course his self esteem was injured significantly. Although he excelled in science, art, wood shop, he didn't get a grip on math until later. When I was reading the book I thought... Wow! that's why he's so intelligent in areas of designing houses, carpentry, electronics, mechanics and just being a very handy guy to have around because he can fix anything. Even things like his type of humor, the way he always makes a play on words, his intrigue with the way things work and with new inventions are related to the way his brain is built. When I started to tell him about what the book was saying, his face just lite up and his self esteem has jumped up a mile. So if you are or know anyone with dyslexia, this is a must read (or have someone read it to you).

The Eide's have written one of the most important books in the field of dyslexia. I highly recommend it for every teacher and every parent with a dyslexic child. The research they have done is ground breaking and important. I used their research in developing practical tools for parents and tutors to use when teaching a dyslexic child to read. Those tools are available to anyone in my book, *Dyslexia Tool Kit for Tutors and Parents: What to do when phonics isn't enough*. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Eide's for research scientifically carried out, and the perseverance to publish that research in such a readable form. Don't miss this book! You will never see dyslexic children the same way again.

I am not sure dyslexia is ever really an advantage, no matter how successful you are, having watched two children struggle with this disability and one child not. The book makes it clear that those who have dyslexia have suffered a lot of pain and true this different way of thinking does lend to looking outside of the box. But even if you or your child understand dyslexia and know you are not stupid there will always be those who cannot not or will not understand this disability and think you are being lazy or it is unfair that you get extra time on test. That is the the world we live in. By understand why a dyslexic struggles makes it easier to stay positive and realize you have other gifts that others do not. I think anyone who has, or loves a dyslexic should read this book, as it gives insight to how and why a dyslexic brain works the way it does and what type of careers would be a good direction to go in. The reality is dyslexia is not something you did, except inherit a gene for it, and is a disability you will have to live with your entire life and make adaptions for. This book gives great examples of why you need to embrace your unique learning style and look at how amazingly you do this, not at the the deficit of reading slowly or being a poor speller. We all have our unique strengths and weaknesses. The Dyslexic Advantage shows you how to embrace being dyslexic and makes you feel you are not alone in your struggle, nor are you stupid for processing information in a different way.

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