

## FAQ:

Dyslexia and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre.

### **1. How do I know if a child is dyslexic?**

No single factor can be used to identify dyslexia. Usually a child with normal to above normal intelligence capabilities will show difficulties with several of the following: reading comprehension, single word identification, expressing thought verbally or in writing; handwriting, spoken language, understanding the spoken word, directionally, etc. There may be similar problems among relatives. There are several standardized tests which are used to identify dyslexia in a child.

### **2. Is dyslexia simply the reversal of letters?**

No. Dyslexia has long been characterized in those terms but dyslexia is far more complex, and reversals may or may not be present. Many non-dyslexic children reverse numbers and letters until age seven or eight. There are many other characteristics which may or may not be present with dyslexia. Dyslexia's characteristics vary from person to person and also vary in severity among persons.

### **3. Is dyslexia curable?**

No, it is not curable as it is not a disease, but it is a condition that can be overcome with appropriate remedial tutoring.

### **4. Does dyslexia run in families?**

Yes, it can and often does. We are absolutely sure it is always inherited or genetic.

### **5 Does it affect both boys and girls?**

Yes.

### **6. Does one outgrow the condition?**

Never, but proper tutoring can overcome it.

### **7. What type of gains are the children making with the Orton-Gillingham Approach.**

Children on average appear to gain one to two years growth in reading and comprehension in one year. They may gain between one to four years of growth or more in a test of phonics skills. Keep in mind that these are children who usually begin the program about two years below grade level in reading.

### **8 What is the average length of time a child needs remedial tutoring?**

For many children, two years are sufficient. A few children are very successful after one year and some require three years of tutoring or more to obtain optimal results.

### **9. What is the Orton-Gillingham Approach to remedial tutoring?**

It is a structured, multi-sensory, phonic, sequential one-on-one tutoring approach which is individualized and paced for each child. It is said to "rewire the brain" to overcome difficulties with reading, spelling and handwriting and to establish new neuropaths in the brain to overcome their absence.

### **10. How are the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centres being established in Canada?**

The Scottish Rite Freemason in a

given area must make a formal declaration of their willingness to be responsible for the organizing and administering a Learning Center in their area, and for raising some of the funds needed to initiate and continue a Center, thus becoming the sponsor of a particular Learning Centre. The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation has established a governance structure, which is incorporated in an extensive handbook which must be followed precisely.

### **11. Why can't our schools treat dyslexia as well as the Scottish Rite Learning Centres?**

It is usually a matter of insufficient funding to provide the very labour intensive one-on-one tutoring required to achieve successful results with a youngster with dyslexia. The Learning Centres in Canada use on one-on-one tutoring with trained and certified volunteer tutors. Most schools do not have teachers trained in the Orton-Gillingham Approach to tutoring.

### **12. Isn't this why our schools have special education teachers?**

Yes, but very few have been specially trained in the Orton-Gillingham Approach to provide the one-on-one remedial tutoring needed by a child with dyslexia. As well, children with learning difficulties are normally assigned to a class of children with similar difficulties and the teachers normally do not have time with a classroom of children to provide an individual child with this kind of tutoring.

**13. What do teachers, school boards think about the Learning Centres?**

Although attitudes are expected to vary among individuals and organizations, the Canadian Learning Centres have met with high praise and excellent support from teachers and administrators, because they realize the great benefits being offered to children that cannot otherwise be offered by school systems. Furthermore, this help is provided FREE, thanks to the generous donations of supporters of this program for children in dire need of help.

**14. How are the tutors trained?**

Volunteers who have a Bachelor's degree apply, go through a selection process, and then undertake formal training by a certified tutor trainer. Those who are accepted as volunteer tutors are trained at no cost to themselves. The basic level of training requires 45 hours of concentrated classroom training and 100 hours of hands on supervised practicum before being certified. As part of the training and continuing supervision of the tutors, every tutoring session is video recorded and then archived, thus ensuring personal security of the child as well.

**15. How can I become involved in a Learning Centre?**

Contact the local Centre through the website in Canada:  
[www.learningcentresforchildren.ca](http://www.learningcentresforchildren.ca) or through the local Scottish Rite. There are many areas in which you can volunteer and the Director of your local Centre can discuss these with you.

It may be that you wish to volunteer as a tutor, and feel the tremendous satisfaction of helping child overcome a major hurdle of life. Retired teachers remember this kind of satisfaction from classroom teaching and easily adapt to the tutoring process, but others can learn so easily as well. For more information please visit our website at [www.dyslexiacentrehamilton.com](http://www.dyslexiacentrehamilton.com).

**16. Are donations tax deductible?**

All donations to the Hamilton Learning Centre program are made to the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada, and are "tax deductible." Donations to the Hamilton Learning Centre must be so noted on the cheques reference or memo and sent to: Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, 4 Queen St S., Hamilton, ON L8P 3R3

**17. How can I apply to the Centre for my child's admission?**

Contact your local Learning Center through the telephone, Internet or email information. Ask for application information, and you will be asked for some detailed information about your child. When there is an opening you will be advised and requested to complete an application form. When an evaluation is completed as to the most appropriate applicant, you will be advised.

**18. Are the Learning Centres going to be involved in research?**

Yes. The Foundation has funded meaningful major research at the University level with the co-operation of one of the Learning Centres.

Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada

LEARNING CENTRE FOR CHILDREN  
HAMILTON



# FAQ

Where children with Dyslexia  
learn to read  
And graduate by reading to learn

Learning Centre Website:  
<http://dyslexiacentrehamilton.com>