

## *Exactly what is the Learning Centre for Children?*

## *Who does it benefit the most?*

## *How might I be able to help?*

These are three great questions and it just so happens I have the answers and will be pleased to also direct you to a few websites that will help you understand even further.

First the Learning Centre for Children is dedicated to improving the lives of children diagnosed with dyslexia. The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation provides quality, state-of-the-art tutoring, absolutely free of charge to those with difficulties in reading and writing, and related scholastic skills.

The people who benefit the most are those families with children who have difficulty learning to read which unfortunately is about 15% of our population.

There are so many options for you to help, either by becoming a specialized tutor, or a volunteer at the centre or by your donation, to ensure those affected by this affliction which is not curable, but can be overcome, receive the help necessary. Dyslexia is not a result of lack of intellect or motivation as many people with Dyslexia have above average intelligence.

## *HISTORY*

In the 1940's, Anna Gillingham said that her system of multi-sensory, one-to-one tutoring was re-wiring the brain. The medical community of the time was unsurprisingly sceptical; however today research is proving Gillingham right.

Sally Shaywitz from Harvard has written a book called "Overcoming Dyslexia." She proved with her research involving MRI scanning that a dyslexic brain has very few or no neural paths to the lower left sections of the brain that are our "Dictionary and Library". That means that every time a child with dyslexia sees a word it is for the first time and they have to right-brain analyze it. Not surprisingly, a person with dyslexia generally has a larger right side brain hemisphere. Einstein was dyslexic and did lineal math using his fingers.

Learning with dyslexia requires a multi-sensory technique — they either need much more time, or need a multi-sensory learning program that re-wires the brain so they can begin to use their brain's own dictionary/ library and begin to LEARN TO READ so they too can begin to READ TO LEARN.

Dr. Samuel Torrey Orton and his colleagues began using multisensory techniques in the mid-1920's at the mobile mental health clinic he directed in Iowa . Orton was influenced by the kinesthetic method described by Grace Fernald and Helen Keller. He suggested that kinesthetic-tactile reinforcement of visual and auditory associations could correct the tendency of reversing letters and transposing the sequence of letters while reading and writing. Students who reverse b and d are taught to use consistent, different strokes in forming each letter d. For example, students make the vertical line before drawing the circle in printing the letter b; they form the circle before drawing the vertical line in printing the letter d.

## *TUTORING SESSIONS*

The tutoring sessions are action oriented with auditory, visual, and kinaesthetic elements reinforcing each other for optimal learning.

In every lesson, the child experiences a high degree of success and gains confidence as well as skill. Learning becomes a rewarding and happy experience.

As children learn new material, they continue to review old material to the level of automaticity.

Children begin by reading and writing sounds in isolation. They then blend the sounds into syllables and words. Children learn the elements (building blocks) of language.

The child learns spelling simultaneously with reading.

The tutor addresses vocabulary, sentence structure, composition, and reading comprehension in a similar structured, sequential, and cumulative manner.

Children learn and study the many generalizations and rules that govern the English language structure. They also learn how best they can apply the language knowledge necessary for achieving reading and writing competencies.

Always being flexible, the tutor seeks to understand how an individual learns and devises appropriate strategies.

## *VOLUNTEER*

Everyone has a gift to give and we need your gift!

All you need is a kind heart, the time to commit and the desire to help a child. If you would like to get involved, email [office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com](mailto:office@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com) or call 905-637-7699

## *TUTOR*

Imagine – the chance to work one-on-one with a child who is in need of your help. You can be that special person who leads a child through the process of learning to read, taking them from the world of frustration to one of success. This experience will require a significant commitment of your time, but it will be rewarded bountifully by the smiles of a happy child and a thankful family.

To become a Learning Centre tutor individuals will need to be trained in the [Orton-Gillingham Approach](#). This training consists of 45 hours of classroom tutorial and observation with feedback conducted over the following 12 months. The training is provided at no cost to the individual.

If you can't see yourself as a tutor but would still like to get involved call or email us today. There are many opportunities to get involved. Some of the positions we need to fill include administrative, front office, and special project support staff.

## *DONATE*

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada Learning Centres for Children is a non-profit organization that provides its services to children free of charge.

If you would like to make a donation directly to the Hamilton Learning Centre, make your cheque payable to the: "The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation" and write "[Learning Centre for Hamilton](#)" on the memo line, and forward it to:

Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation  
4 Queen Street South  
Hamilton, ON L8P 3R3

An official income tax receipt will be mailed to you.

The Hamilton Learning Centre for Children receives core funding from the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada.

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation presently oversees learning centres in Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, London, Moncton, Windsor, Vancouver and Hamilton.



Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada

## LEARNING CENTRE FOR CHILDREN HAMILTON



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

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

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