Sneak Peak..... The Dyslexia Parent Toolkit

The following provides an overview of the content of this comprehensive resource for parents. Stay tuned for details about future workshops. We can't wait to share this resource with you!



Table of Contents

١	VELCOME: Let's begin our journey together	4
	About Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba	5
	Perspectives	
	Aparent	6
	An educator	7
	Astudent	8
	A tutor	9
	Gaining ground in Manitoba	10
F	ART ONE: Gaining Understanding	12
1	Introduction	
	Charting the path forward	14
	Learning to read: A human rights issue	15
	Advocating for your child	17
	Landmark legal decisions	21
	Definition of Dyslexia, a Specific Learning Disability	23
	Definition of dyslexia	
	Dyslexia behaviours, characteristics and screening	25
	General curriculum expectations by age and characteristics of dyslexia	27
	What Does it Feel Like to Have Dyslexia?	35
	Common strengths	36
	Understanding the importance of screening	41
	Screening tools for parent use	
	Screening Checklist	42
	Getting a Formal Diagnosis	44
	What to expect - Getting a clinical diagnosis	45
	Federal Disability Supports	49

ART TWO: Getting Everyone on the Same Page The importance of open and ongoing communication Preparing for the initial school team meeting	55 55
	55
Prengring for the initial school team meeting	00
riepaning for the initial school tearn meeting	56
Correspondence with the school and other educational institutions	
Communications and meeting notes	57
ART THREE: Putting Plans in Place	63
Intervention Options: Accommodations and Adaptations	
Adaptations/Accommodations	65
Accommodation and advocacy: The parent's role	71
Preparing a student profile	
Student-Specific Education Plans	75
Developing the Education Plan	
What could be included in the Education Plan	78
Questions to ask when developing an Education Plan with the school team	80
Preparing for Post-Secondary Education	86
Manitoba Universities and Colleges Accessibility Services Contacts	88
ART FOUR: Conclusion, Resources, Appendices and Partners	88
Conclusion	
Additional resources	90
Appendices	96
References	132
Partners and Affiliates	134
ART FIVE: Placeholders	135
I. Student Screening and Assessment Reports of your child	136
II. Student work samples	137
III. Report cards	138
III. REDUIT CUIUS	
IV. In and out of school student records	139

WELCOME

Let's begin our journey together

The purpose of this Parent Toolkit, developed by The Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba, is to assist you as parents, caregivers and families to navigate the school system, and advocate for your children with dyslexia. We know that parents in the dyslexia community have felt lost, confused, frustrated and uncertain as to how to best support their children to reach their full academic potential.

We have solicited the input and expertise of a broad range of people to put this Toolkit together, including parents/caregivers, dyslexia tutors, reading clinicians, resource teachers, dyslexia specialists, and registered psychologists. Our collective experience and guidance forms the foundation of the Toolkit.

We have also referred to best practices and guidance from other dyslexia organizations, such as the International Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Canada, and others, while doing our best to ensure the Toolkit is relevant within the province of Manitoba's education framework. We accept that there is room for improvement – so please, take time to provide us your valuable feedback on the contents of the Toolkit by filling out the Feedback Form in Appendix N. An online fillable form is also available on our website at <u>dyslexiachampions.org</u>. This will help us continue to improve how the Toolkit serves the needs of all parents/caregivers who work hard to support their children.



About Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba

Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba was founded in 2011 as a result of a discernable gap in the recognition of dyslexia as a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and the resulting absence of recognition, diagnosis and support for parents/caregivers and students living with dyslexia. Our mission statement is to **"Work together to champion the gifts and to support the needs of Manitobans with dyslexia."**

Our association is comprised of **parents**, **caregivers**, **students**, **teachers**, **resource professionals** (including psychologists, audiologists, reading clinicians, as well as speech and language pathologists). We have held numerous conferences and workshops and have brought in trainers to instruct teachers in the classroom and tutors in the communities. Hundreds of families and educational professionals have attended these events. All were interested in sharing and obtaining information and guidance about how to effectively recognize and support individuals living with dyslexia.

This Toolkit is another step we've taken to meet this need and begin to fill that gap. You can read more about us at <u>dyslexiachampions.org</u>.

Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba

Celebrating the 8th year of our Mission to Work together to champion the gifts, and support the needs of Manitobans with Dyslexia.

- Email: dyslexia.champions@gmail.com
- Website: <u>www.dyslexiachampions.org</u>
- DCM OG Tutors

- Like Dyslexia Champions on <u>Facebook</u>
- Follow Dyslexia Champions on <u>Twitter</u>
- Follow Dyslexia Champions on <u>Instagram</u>

Conclusion, Resources, Appendices and Partners



Conclusion

Our hope is that this Toolkit has helped shed light on the journey ahead for you and your child who is living and thriving with dyslexia. As some of our champions have shared in their stories (see Champions Stories at dyslexiachampions.org), dyslexia can also be a "super power" when it is properly managed. Many children with learning disabilities become more resilient and able to face life's challenges more effectively because they have learned strategies to adapt, to be open to new approaches, to draw on their strengths, and to become strong self-advocates.

In most cases, there is no reason these bright individuals cannot move right along with their friends and peers, toward a successful educational experience year after year.

Is not that the hope of every parent? We are honoured to be on this journey to help support that outcome.

If you have further questions or concerns contact us at: <u>dyslexiachampions.org/contact.html</u>