



Dyslexia with Gifts and Talents

Karen H. Nathan Ph.D.

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Dyslexia affects roughly 10 to 20 percent of the population. It is well known that students of all ages struggle with reading skills. What is not well known is the fact many of these individuals possess amazing gifts and talents in other areas. In school, they may face the embarrassment and fear of being called on to read aloud or the frustration of being the last to complete their assignments. Unfortunately, their strengths (perhaps an exceptional vocabulary, advanced knowledge in science, fine musical talent, or numerous other superb abilities) may go unrecognized or under-appreciated in their classrooms. More knowledge and understanding on the part of teachers and parents can allow these students to be identified, to become more successful academically, and to see themselves as the capable individuals they are. Dr. Karen Nathan brings her experiences as a teacher, mother, researcher, professor, and classroom volunteer to *Dyslexia with Gifts and Talents*. This unique book powerfully and effectively combines specific factual information, personal autobiography, numerous first-person accounts of others, and practical help for parents, teachers, and students. Much of *Dyslexia with Gifts and Talents* is written with a mother's perspective, through an earnest eye that works to recapture the journey traveled with her son.

Zach's Journey: The Search for a Magic Pencil offers a compelling first-hand account of what it is like to grow up with the combination of dyslexia (poor reading, handwriting, and spelling skills) and gifted abilities (science, computers, creative writing, vocabulary) from the perspectives of the individual (Zach) and his mother (Karen). The story unfolds in the voices of mother and son through personal narratives and conversations. Zach shares in his own words and from his unique outlook his educational experiences from pre-kindergarten through college. Karen shares her reflections on each stage of the often emotional roller coaster of this journey. At times, Zach's father and brother add their memories. Copies of writing samples, achievement tests, letters, awards, and photographs are included.

Many Stories, Voices of Others is an eye-opening reminder that gifted and talented individuals with dyslexia are far more common in our society than we often realize. Their voices are a mix of heartrending, forceful, weary, and triumphant. Some voices are well-known; most are not. Bright individuals with learning differences, their parents, teachers, and researchers have their say on numerous topics from Identification: A Puzzling Discovery to Higher Education and the Work Force.

The final section **HELP** provides information and advice for parents, teachers, and students. It includes the importance of focusing on strengths, tips for reading comprehension, lists of possible accommodations, types of assistive technology, tactics for choosing a college, and much more. The book concludes with specifics on identification, laws, and resources.

Students with dyslexia and gifts or talents, their parents, and their teachers can all benefit from this insightful work.

The book is dedicated to all students with learning differences.

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