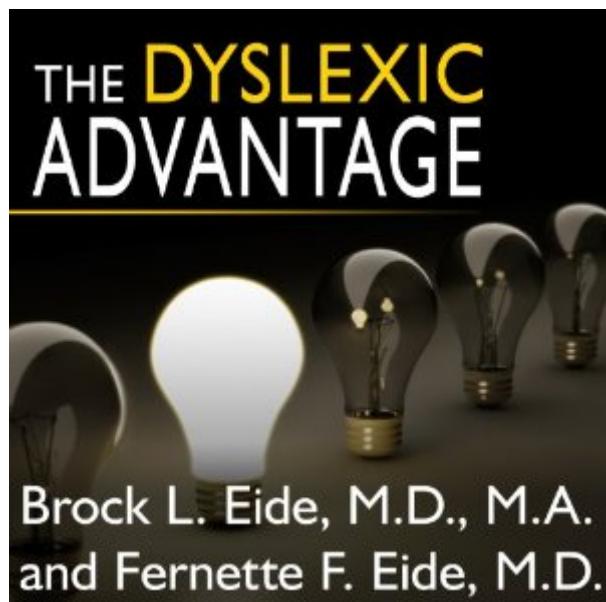


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# The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking The Hidden Potential Of The Dyslexic Brain



## **Synopsis**

Dyslexia is almost always assumed to be an obstacle. And for one in five people who are dyslexic, it can be. Yet for millions of successful dyslexics - including astrophysicists, mystery novelists, and entrepreneurs - their dyslexic differences are the key to their success. In this paradigm-shifting book, neurolearning experts Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide describe exciting new brain science revealing that dyslexic people have unique brain structure and organization. While the differences are responsible for certain challenges with literacy and reading, the dyslexic brain also gives a predisposition to important skills and special talents. While dyslexics typically struggle to decode the written word, they often also excel in areas such as mechanical reasoning (required for architects and surgeons); interconnected reasoning (artists and inventors); narrative reasoning (novelists and lawyers); and dynamic reasoning (scientists and business pioneers). With much-needed prescriptive advice for parents, educators, and dyslexics, *The Dyslexic Advantage* provides the first complete portrait of dyslexia. Supporting their claims with groundbreaking science and interviews with successful dyslexics and innovative teachers, the authors of this essential book show how the unique strengths of dyslexia can be captured for success at home, at school, and at work.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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 ones 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 ones 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 for 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 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!)

Any parent of a dyslexic child soon learns two things: 1) their child is very bright but thinks and learns differently from peers, 2) the educational system does not serve them very well. Our struggles as parents are often immense as we work to advocate for our dyslexic child in a society that, more often than not, discards a dyslexic intellect as inferior and unlikely to succeed in life. This wonderful book explains through example after example how the complete opposite is the case. Dyslexic minds may have troubles with conventional ways of "doing things" but it is for that reason that they have been the pivotal forces behind discoveries and innovations that have led our culture forward for centuries (if not millennia). This book is not just for parents of dyslexic children, but for anyone who is interested in deepening their understanding of the human mind/brain and especially those who are interested in correlations between mentation and society. This is an engaging read, full of beautiful thoughts by many of the most influential minds of contemporary society. The Eides (both MDs) bring their extensive knowledge together in a book unlike any other on the market. It will change the way you look, not just at dyslexics, but at how we, as a society, are all too quick to judge those who are "different".

I'm 39 years old and ran my own landscaping business for 20 years. I all ways had problems with reading, writing and math. I failed the sixth grade and was sent off to boarding school. Unfortunately with the bad economy I lost my business. Now it was time to face my demands once again. I tried going back to school to improve my skills, for some reason I thought things would be different. They weren't. To make a long story short I've been through tons of testing over the years. They all said one thing, that I was lazy. I was tested again and was diagnosed as having dyslexia. I bought this book soon afterwards. It was one of the best resources I've come across yet. I found myself in so many instances. I think this book would be positive for anybody with this problem.

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