Taylor Gaikema
989-538-8309
www.growingthroughdyslexia.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Barton	EBLI
Both are explicit, multisensory instruction that include segmenting, blending, and phonemic awareness.	
Print to Speech (Structured Literacy)	Speech to Print (Linguistic Phonics)
Letters first: Match letters to the sounds	Sounds first: Match sounds to the letters
Phonics rules, exceptions, syllable types	Rules free instruction, focus on patterns
Sight words (irregular words) taught by letter names and memorization	All words, including irregular words, taught by sound
One spelling rule taught to mastery at a time	Many spellings taught at once then applied
Read text that contains only the spellings that have been explicitly taught	Supported instruction/error correction process that allows advancing quickly to any text
No handwriting at the beginning	Handwriting explicitly taught throughout
Dictated sentence writing	Independent composition of sentences
Not for use with receptive or expressive language disorders, IQ below 70, or under 5 years old	Appropriate for use with any verbal student of any age or ability level
Outdated practices	Follows best practices for learning
9th grade reading level after book 10	Improve multiple grade levels in a matter of months, reach highest potential
Takes minimum 2x weekly tutoring for 2-4 years	Takes minimum 1x weekly tutoring for 5-8 months

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Q: Does Barton teach spelling more than EBLI?

A: Both Barton and EBLI explicitly teach reading and spelling. However, as students naturally learn to read and spell, reading will progress faster than spelling will. EBLI allows the students to progress their reading to their highest potential and lets spelling grow naturally with it. Barton requires students to bring their spelling and reading levels up to the same standard before they can progress to the next concept.

Q: Will tutoring cure dyslexia?

A: No. Dyslexia is not a disease to be cured. Dyslexia is a neurological difference that creates difficulties in learning to read. Students with dyslexia need to be taught in ways that make sense for their brains. With appropriate teaching, students can overcome the challenges in reading and spelling caused by dyslexia.

Q: Should my child have a 504 or IEP?

A: An IEP provides services to students within the special education system. The IEP sets learning goals and describes the services the school will provide. A 504 provides services and changes to the learning environment to enable students to learn alongside their peers. Both can be beneficial to students with dyslexia depending on their needs. More information can be found here:
Parents' guide to 504 plans and IEPs: What they are and how they're different | EdSource
IEP vs. 504 Plan: What's the Difference? | Understood

Q: Should my child be held back a grade in school?

A: No. A growing body of research suggests that retention negatively impacts students and does not improve academic performance. Students need structured evidence-based interventions. Repeating the same curriculum in school is not effective. Retention can also lead to behavioral and socio-emotional adjustment problems.

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Q: Are audiobooks beneficial for my child?

A: Yes! Audiobooks will help build your child's vocabulary when listening to books at or slightly above their grade level. Listening to textbooks is also beneficial for students of all ages to prevent reading fatigue. These websites offer audiobooks:

learningally.com bookshare.com audible.com

Q: What can I do outside of tutoring to support my child in reading and spelling?

A: You can support your child's progress in tutoring with the activities outlined in our **Activities to Support Continued Learning** document found in the Resources section on the website. If you cannot afford tutoring, I also offer suggestions for parent training in the **Extra Resources** document.

Q: Recommendations for decodable books?

A: Decodable books are a great first introduction to reading outside of tutoring. I recommend looking into Bob Books and Phonic Books. Fly Leaf Publishing also has a free E-library of decodables.
Home - Flyleaf Publishing - Online Materials Portal

Learn More About Dyslexia

The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking the Hidden Potential of the Dyslexic Brain: Eide M.D. M.A., Brock L., Eide M.D., Fernette F.: 9780452297920: Amazon.com: Books

Overcoming Dyslexia: Second Edition, Completely Revised and Updated: Shaywitz, Sally E., Shaywitz, Jonathan: 9781529306910: Amazon.com: Books

Choose strength not shame: Ben Foss at TEDxSonomaCounty

Overcoming Dyslexia, Finding Passion: Piper Otterbein at TEDxYouth@CEHS - YouTube

For Kids
See dyslexia differently