
THE LITTLE READING HOUSE

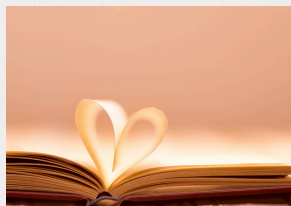


THE LITTLE READING HOUSE



Student Spotlight

This month we are proud to celebrate Benji as he successfully completes dyslexia therapy. What once began with tears, frustration, and uncertainty has transformed into confidence, independence, and a love for reading. Benji's journey is a powerful reminder of how early identification, the right support, and perseverance can truly change the trajectory of a child's educational experience. Read below to learn more about Benji's incredible growth and the impact dyslexia therapy had on his life and learning journey.



Dyslexia Is More Than "Reversing Letters"

One of the most common myths about dyslexia is that children simply see letters or words backwards. While some students may occasionally reverse letters such as b/d or p/q during early learning, this alone does not define dyslexia. In fact, many young children reverse letters as they learn to read and write.

Dyslexia is actually a language-based learning difference that affects the way the brain processes sounds in spoken and written language. Children with dyslexia often struggle with phonological processing, the ability to hear, recognize, and manipulate the individual sounds within words. This can make it difficult to connect letters to sounds, decode unfamiliar words, spell accurately, and develop reading fluency.

For example, a child with dyslexia may:

- Have difficulty sounding out words
- Struggle to remember sight words
- Read slowly or hesitantly
- Avoid reading aloud
- Spell the same word differently within the same sentence
- Become frustrated, emotional, or fatigued during reading tasks

Many children with dyslexia are highly intelligent and work extremely hard, yet still find reading unexpectedly difficult. Because of this, dyslexia can sometimes impact confidence and self-esteem if children begin comparing themselves to peers.

The encouraging news is that children with dyslexia can absolutely learn to read successfully with the right support. Structured, explicit, multisensory instruction rooted in the Science of Reading helps strengthen the brain pathways needed for reading and spelling. Early identification and intervention can make a significant difference in helping students become confident, capable readers.

How Dyslexia Therapy Changed One Student's Life

What were your initial concerns before beginning dyslexia therapy?

Our initial concerns were the struggles with his sight words. He was able to identify them on one page of his book, but once the page flipped, he couldn't identify the words anymore. There were often tears during reading, and at first we thought part of it was laziness. That is when the worry set in that he might be falling behind. We worked extra hard with him at home, but I became concerned that he wasn't truly grasping the material. All I could think was that he was memorizing the words instead of actually reading them. We were very fortunate that his first-grade teacher noticed the signs early and mentioned that he might have dyslexia. She helped begin the testing process, and that is when we found out he had dyslexia. We worried that our son would continue to fall behind if we didn't find the right help. We knew the school would do what they could to provide support, but we wondered if it would truly be enough. Was he getting the help he really needed, or simply going through the motions of receiving services? My husband and I began researching outside support options, and that is when we met Dr. Bodden. During our initial meeting with her, we immediately felt welcomed. Every concern we had was addressed with care, and we truly felt this was going to be the perfect fit for our son to get the help he needed.

What changes or growth have you noticed in your child since beginning the program?

We were able to see progress within the first few weeks of starting the program. He was no longer guessing at sight words. He began reading signs, labels, and completing reading homework without it feeling like such a struggle. He also started using the tools he learned to decode words he found difficult.

How has your child's confidence or attitude toward reading changed?

Not only was he using the tools he learned, but his confidence and attitude toward reading improved immensely. He became confident enough to pick up books at his grade level and read independently. He was no longer anxious when he had reading assignments like he was before.

What has been most impactful about your experience at The Little Reading House?

Dr. Bodden gave my son the tools he needed to become a successful reader and continue progressing throughout his school years. With her help, he was able to reach grade-level reading and not continue falling behind. She provided a roadmap for us during a time when we felt lost. Not only did he learn how to read, but he also learned how his brain works.

Is there a specific moment or milestone that stood out to you?

I knew we had made the right decision to pursue therapy one evening while my son was doing homework. He came across a big word and asked me how to pronounce it. Instead of giving him the answer, I told him to use the tools Dr. Bodden had taught him. He worked through the word independently and pronounced it correctly. My heart felt so full in that moment because I knew we had made the right choice by seeking outside support for his dyslexia. He is now in fourth grade and loves to read.



What would you say to other parents who are considering dyslexia therapy or reading intervention?

We were blessed that the school identified my son's dyslexia early, and even more blessed to have found outside support with Dr. Bodden. Don't wait for your child to "catch up" on their own. Dyslexia therapy is an investment in your child's self-esteem, confidence, and future. It is hard work, but it is worth it when you see your child realize they are capable, intelligent, and able to succeed.

The tools they learn in therapy not only help with schoolwork but also carry into life outside of school. I would highly recommend dyslexia therapy to any parent whose child is struggling with reading because you will truly see growth and improvement.

"My heart felt so full in that moment because I knew we had made the right choice by seeking outside support for his dyslexia."