

THE OG UPDATE

DOES MY CHILD NEED A DIAGNOSIS?

By Danielle Brooks – Educational Advocate
Administer of Facebook Group: *Building Readers Long Island*

School districts cannot diagnose dyslexia because they are not equipped to do full testing for dyslexia. They do have testing that shows a direction and gives clues regarding a student who is displaying a weakness in an area or having a reading problem. However, to get a true diagnosis of all learning disabilities including dyslexia, you have to see a neuropsychologist.

The best in every field do not accept insurance! It is extremely important to get the best evaluation possible. These are expensive reports that run between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Insurance evaluations are great if you're just looking for a diagnosis, but that's only half the battle. The extensive recommendations and specific programs are done by a neuropsychologist who is at the top of their field. Using someone who takes insurance means it's medically based. You need someone who is in the field of educationally-based neuropsychology. There is a difference, and in the world of parents making recommendations, a parent has never seen another report so they think the report that they had done is wonderful until they are shown a report that is done with integrity, fidelity, and has recommendations that are in line with what's currently happening in education.

In your procedural safeguards given to you once a year by your school district, are the instructions for the school district to pay for one of these evaluations. You will find it under the section for *independent educational evaluation rights*. Once the school district does their evaluation every three years, review the results of that evaluation in the committee on special-education. After the meeting, not during the meeting, not before the meeting, you send the letter requesting specifically in the letter for a neuropsychological evaluation.

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Upcoming Events

If you would like to attend, the following SEPTA meetings have been scheduled for this month: Bethpage on March 11th, Sayville on March 16th, and Hicksville on March 22nd. If you would like me to speak at your local SEPTA chapter, feel free to contact me. I will also be hosting a **virtual parent meeting** for all Literacy Nassau OG parents on **Thursday, March 18th at 7:00 pm**. The topic will be **"Cool Rules"** and we will discuss topics that your child has learned, or will be learning soon.



RAINY DAY READS

Spring is coming! In April, we are going to start sharing students' ideas and accomplishments on the wall of windows in the tutoring center. I will kick off April with "Rainy Day Reads." Parents, please email me the **title** and **author** of your child's favorite book along with a **photo of your child** and **one sentence** in their own words about why it's their favorite. Please email it to me by **March 25th**: knaul@literacynassau.org.

VIRTUAL "COFFEE AND CONVERSATION" FOR OG TUTORS

Pour yourself a hot cup of coffee and sit down at your computer for a virtual evening of **"Coffee & Conversation"** on **Tuesday, March 9th** from **7:00-8:00 pm**. It's a great opportunity for OG tutors to network and share ideas. In the last meeting, we chatted about favorite activities and resources. Kim will be available to answer any questions and address any concerns. Please RSVP once the email is sent out.

REFER A FRIEND

If you **refer a friend** and the student is accepted into our OG tutoring program, you will **receive a Kindle Fire HD 8!**



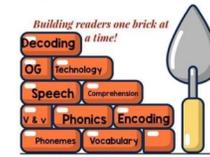
OGA Associate Level Training

Many parents have been observing their children learn virtually and have become very intrigued with the OG approach. If you are interested in becoming a practitioner, contact us today to get involved in our summer cohort. Space is limited.

You are disagreeing with the school district evaluation. Why? Because it cannot diagnose. It doesn't test for executive function. It doesn't test for learning disabilities. It doesn't test for anything that is a true weakness for a student in this category. By disagreeing with your school district, you are not insulting your team, you are not doing anything that they are not used to. Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs) are common place for school districts. If you study your Board of Education notes, you will find budget lines for these evaluations.

There is no such thing as a dyslexia evaluation. Let me repeat that, *there is no such thing as a dyslexia evaluation.*

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THE DYSLEXIA UMBRELLA

Comorbidities are often present along with dyslexia. A comorbidity is when one or more additional conditions are co-occurring with a primary condition. Below are some examples of comorbidities that can be present along with dyslexia:

- ADD/ADHD
- Dysgraphia
- Dyscalculia
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- Anxiety
- Autism Spectrum Disorder

There are several agencies on the island that do evaluations of this type. They do not diagnose in these reports and these reports do not look for the other parts of what is a learning disabled student. Dyslexics are often comorbid. Auditory processing, dysgraphia, dyspraxia, and dyscalculia need to be screened for at the same time as dyslexia. By going to a reading company or a reading evaluator, you will miss all of these other parts. You'll pay thousands of dollars for these reading or dyslexia evaluations that are then missing 3/4 of what's needed to fully evaluate your child or student. Parents are then faced with only part of what they were looking for after investing this amount of money. It is not a shortcut to a dyslexia diagnosis. No one wants the diagnosis in the first place. You are evaluating to see if it's ruled in or ruled out. By seeing someone who only is an expert in reading, you can't rule in other learning problems or speech or language difficulties. However, with a neuropsychologist, you can.

In Building Readers Long Island, we are forming a community to discuss these issues so that parents are no longer confused and have a place to discuss all things to deal with learning disabilities and reading.

Visit this Facebook page for more valuable information:
www.facebook.com/buildingreaderslongisland

