



Accommodations for Struggling Readers

Practical Strategies and Dyslexia Support

Presented by Dana Huss



About Me

Dana Huss, Certified Dyslexia Tutor

Owner | COO, Growth Reading Center

Wife to a Serial Entrepreneur with dyslexia

- Growth Construction
- Growth Realty
- Growth Publishing

Mom to two sons with dyslexia

Teacher for over 25 years

Dyslexia Tutor since 2006

Facilitator of Literacy Lifeline

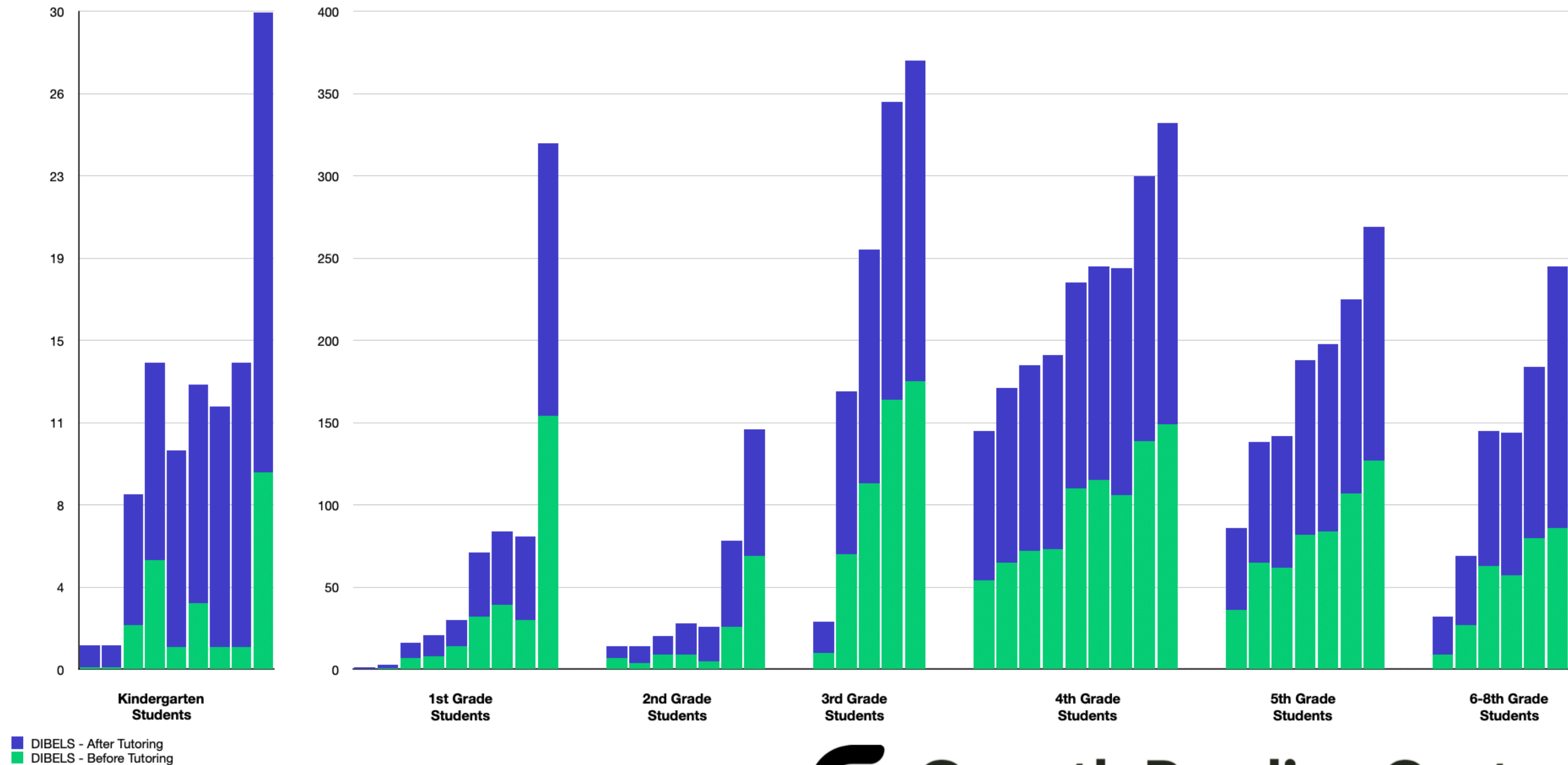
C-SLDS (in Process)



There is hope

CWPM* Before Tutoring and After

52 Students - Average 21 Sessions



*CWPM = Correct Words Per Minute
*Each blue & green column represents one student's reading growth.
*Each student was administered DIBELS before tutoring with Growth Reading Center and then again at the end of their time with us. The average number of lessons that each student attended was 21.

Please send me the slides or information
about upcoming resources





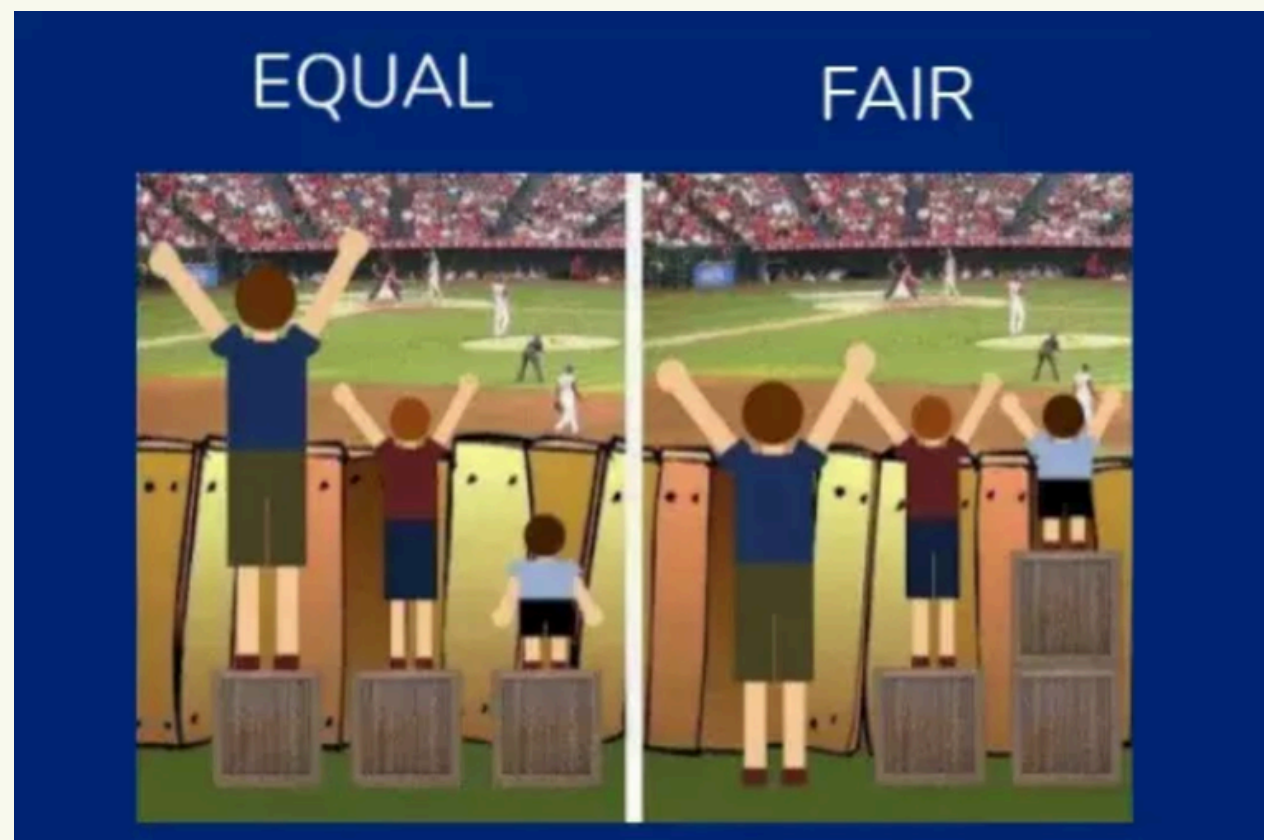
Equal vs Fair

Equal

Everyone gets the exact same thing.

Fair

Everyone gets what they need to succeed.



Accommodations vs. Modifications

Accommodations

change how the student interacts with the content
(access without lowering expectations).

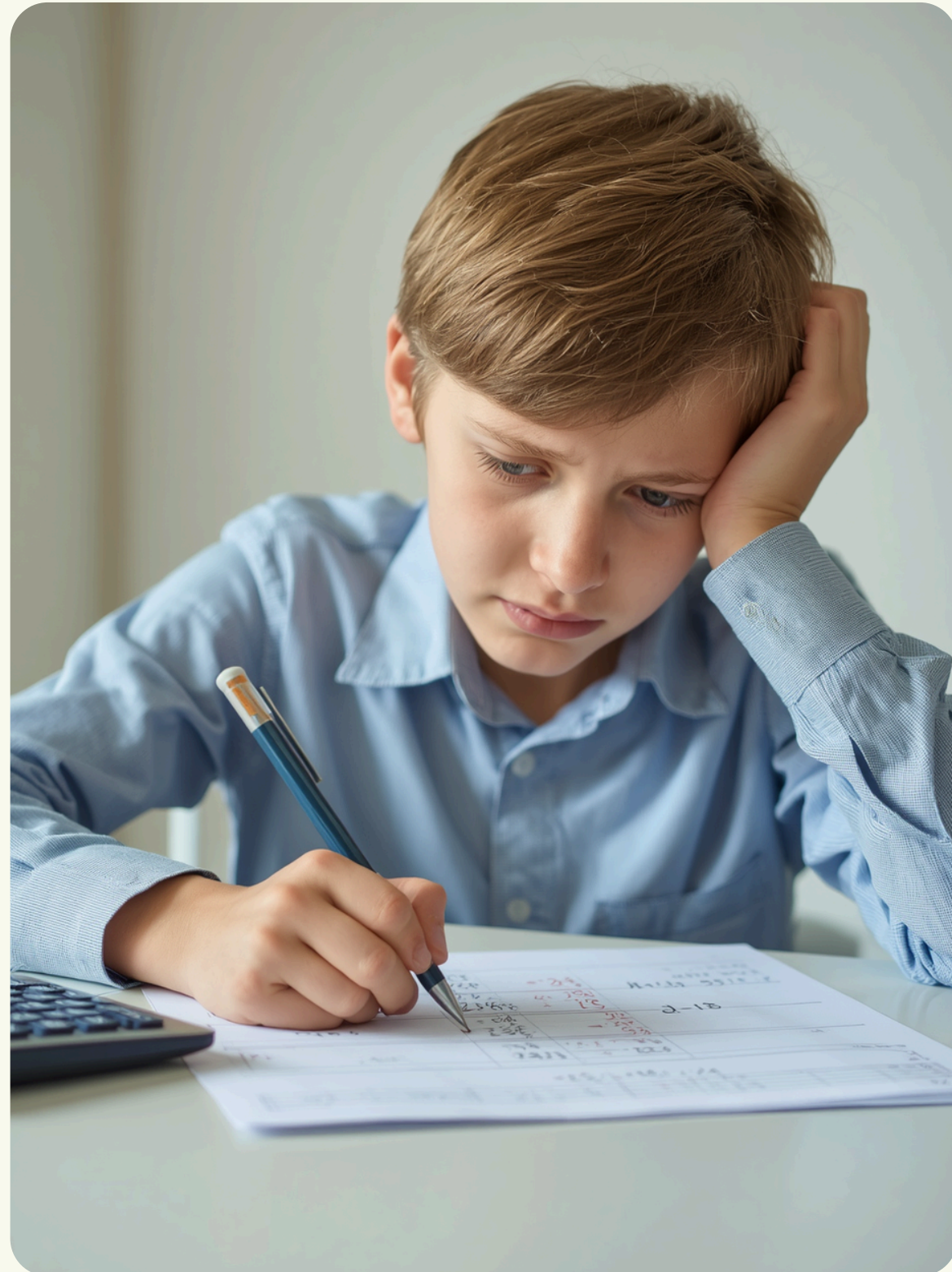
Modifications

change what the student is expected to learn or
the standard itself.

**Accommodations do not give an unfair advantage — they
remove barriers so students can show what they know.**



Who Needs Accommodations



Students need support in different areas:

- **Physical – e.g., seating, glasses, mobility supports**
- **Instructional – e.g., audiobooks, instructions read aloud, visual aids, graphic organizers**
- **Assessment – e.g., extra time, tests read aloud, quiet setting**

Signs a student may need accommodations:

- **Ongoing academic struggles (assignments, instructions, tests)**
- **Persistent organizational difficulties (materials, time, planning)**
- **Attention or focus challenges that interfere with completing work**
- **Physical, health, or mental health concerns that affect learning**



Important Caveat



-
- **An accommodation does not remediate reading.**
 - **A child's reading will not improve without explicit, structured literacy instruction.**
 - **Accommodations provide access while remediation builds the skill.**

Simple Helps



Materials & Environment

Large print materials

Reading Strips

Audiobooks & text-to-speech

Reduced visual clutter



Tools & Resources

Pencil grips for better control

Raised-line & graph paper

Typed notes provided

Speech-to-text software



Accommodations

Extra time on assignments

Reduced copying requirements

Audio recording options

Dictation

Instruction & Assessment



Teaching Strategies

Pre-teach vocabulary and key concepts
Provide outlines and study guides
Break complex tasks into steps



Assessment Options

Allow ways to demonstrate knowledge.
Offer oral responses and scribing
Focus on content mastery



Support Strategies

Grade for knowledge
Provide a quiet space for testing
Allow extended time/frequent breaks

Reading Accommodations

- **Extra time on tests and reading assignments**
- **Audio versions of textbooks (Bookshare, Learning Ally) or text-to-speech (pen)**
- **Pre-exposure to reading materials/advance notice of longer assignments**
- **Do not require oral reading in front of peers unless the student volunteers**



Writing Accommodations

- **Grade content, not spelling**
- **Allow speech-to-text or dictation (then edit)**
- **Spelling devices / word prediction**
- **Modified spelling lists when appropriate**



Math Accommodations



- **Calculator (when computation is not the skill being measured)**
- **Math manipulatives**
- **Graphic organizers for multi-step procedures**

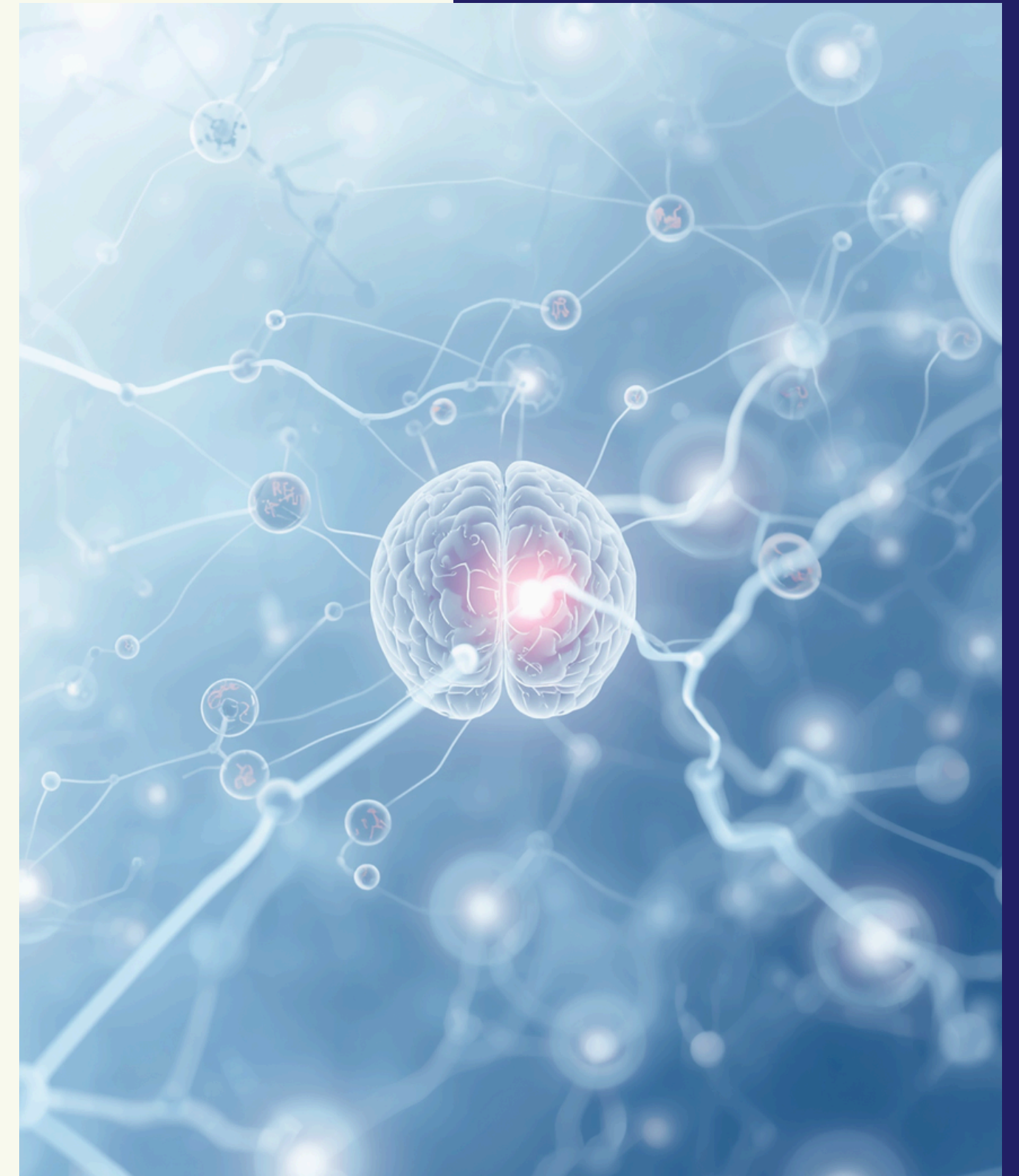


- **Multiplication chart / fact charts**
- **One operation per page or color-coded operations**



Homework & Organizational Supports

- **Extra time or reduced quantity of homework**
- **Printed or emailed assignments (never require copying from the board)**
- **Prioritize essential work; let parents decide volume when needed**
- **Special assignment folder + email parents**
- **Graphic organizers kept in a binder**



Curriculum Options

Reading & Spelling (Dyslexia):

- Orton-Gillingham - multisensory, structured literacy approach
- UFLI Foundations - systematic phonics instruction
- All About Spelling - mastery-based spelling curriculum

Writing (Dysgraphia):

- Handwriting Without Tears - developmentally appropriate handwriting instruction
- Writing Revolution - explicit writing instruction using the Hochman Method

Math (Dyscalculia):

- Touch Math - multisensory math program using touch points
- Times Tales - story-based multiplication facts memorization



How to Work Within Your Curriculum

- **Use the curriculum's audio or digital options whenever available**
- **Allow oral responses or scribing instead of heavy written output**
- **Reduce copying and written volume when the goal is content mastery**
- **Pre-teach key vocabulary and provide graphic organizers**
- **Pair the curriculum with multi-sensory reinforcement (sky writing, tapping, manipulatives)**
- **Give extended time on timed drills and tests**
- **Document supports in a 504 Plan or informal accommodation plan**

Goal: Keep the strong content of your curriculum while adjusting the how so students can access and show what they know.

Accommodation Resources

<https://dyslexiaida.org/accommodations-for-students-with-dyslexia/>

<https://ortongillinghamonlineacademy.com/dyslexia-in-the-classroom/>

What NOW

Three Things

1. Free evaluations for struggling students
2. Reach out with any questions
 - a. Call/Text 563-549-3150
 - b. Email Dana.Huss@GrowthVenturesLLC.com
3. Follow me on Social Media

Final Takeaway



**With the right supports and understanding, these students
don't just succeed — they thrive and bring
incredible value to the world.**



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