

HIDA Dyslexia Simulation

August 2015

READING

Task: Reading “text” where nonsense symbols were used in place of letters (Wizard)

Issue: This phonics system was unfamiliar to the reader., so sounding out words was not an option. The reader lacked rapid, automatic word recognition skills; most words were unfamiliar and therefore unrecognizable.

Task: Reading text in which b, d, g, p, q were reversed

Issue: Word reading became a thinking process as the reader relied on established sight vocabulary and context clues to aid decoding.

Implications: A whole word sight approach to reading is inefficient. These exercises illustrate how reading is hampered by undeveloped phonics skills or an impoverished sight vocabulary, and highlights the attention and effort required of the child to get through a passage. When a reader must pause to consider the pronunciation of words, decoding requires focused attention and effort which disrupts fluency, overloads working memory, hampers comprehension, and prolongs the task significantly.

Because most of the vocabulary used in today’s backwards reading example was fairly familiar, the task itself was not much of a challenge. Try these instead (from <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/people/matt.davis/cmabridge/>; GREAT article!)

- 1) A vheclie epxledod at a plocie cehckipont near the UN haduqertares in Bagahdd on Mnoday kilinlg the bmober and an lrqai polcie offceir
- 2) Big ccunoil tax ineesacrs tihs yaer hvae seezueqd the inmcoes of mnay pneosenirs
- 3) A dootcr has aimttdded the magltheuansr of a tageene ceacnr pintaet who deid aetfr a hatospil durg blendur

(“answers” on back of this page)

How to help: See accommodations handout

WRITING

Task: Using a mirror to draw a line within borders

Issue: A simple copying becomes a thinking task that required tremendous effort and concentration

Task: Copying letters using non-dominant hand

Issue: Reduced writing speed and legibility

Implications: Lack of automatic letter formation (also spacing, sizing, alignment) and spelling skills make writing an effortful process and an especially laborious one for students who struggle with problems pertaining to grip and control. Graphomotor problems disrupt the transference of thoughts to the page. The entire writing process is slowed; often, the student cannot keep pace with the flow of ideas racing through her head. Although this student may talk a great story, the teacher rarely sees this content and elaboration reflected in written work.

Consequently, many adults assume that the student is “lazy” or “unmotivated.” Visual-motor difficulties may also impact drawing, copying, keyboarding, etc.

How to help: See accommodations handout

SPELLING/listening

Task: Completing a spelling test when word pronunciation is distorted

Issue: Increased effort and concentration did little to diminish the negative impact of auditory discrimination problems

Implications: Auditory discrimination refers to the ability to notice, compare, and distinguish between distinct and separate sounds. The inability to clearly discern sounds in words affects accuracy in transcription and makes note taking difficult if not impossible for a student trying to make sense of what he heard. Or he may proceed without awareness that he misheard instructions (17 vs. 70 problems) or vocabulary words (toast vs. coast) which will impact any related assignments or exams. Students with poor processing or even kids with colds may appear to not be listening carefully, may request repetition or clarification, or may try to extract clues by watching or talking to others so it looks like they’re not be paying attention.

How to help: See accommodations handout.

Answers

- 1) A vehicle exploded at a police checkpoint near the UN headquarters in Baghdad on Monday killing the bomber and an Iraqi police officer
- 2) Big council tax increases this year have squeezed the incomes of many pensioners
- 3) A doctor has admitted the manslaughter of a teenage cancer patient who died after a hospital drug blunder.

All these came from the BBC News on 22nd September 2003