



Old Problem needs New Solution

In the past, children who were naturally left-handed were forced to use their right hand. While we know very little about what influences hand preference, we do know that handedness reflects the wiring of the individual brain.

These days, left-handedness is more accepted and acknowledged as a natural preference. Children are no longer forced or rapped over the knuckles for their natural preference of left handedness.

A dyslexic is naturally a visual thinker. As with left-handedness, we really understand very little about the wiring of the brain of dyslexic. It is known that a dyslexic has trouble with phonics based reading techniques. Using phonics based reading strategies is like forcing a left handed person to use his/her right hand. When it doesn't work send the person off to an occupational therapist or, in the case of a dyslexic, a speech therapist.

You are about to experience why it is important to allow a dyslexic to read using their natural visual processing style rather than phonics based programs.

For this experiment you will need a pen/pencil and paper.

The first step is to put the pen in your non-dominant hand. This means if you use your right hand put the pen/pencil in your left hand and visa versa.

Now, using your non-dominant hand **print** your full name on the piece of paper and then **write** you full name.

Did you feel comfortable using your other hand?

Did this require more concentration?

Describe the differences you see?

Describe the difficulties you experienced.

If I recommended changing your pencil grip, would that help?

If I recommend using a different pen or pencil, would that help?

If I give you coloured paper, would that help?

If recommend that you continue practicing until you are precise in your letter formation, would that make you feel naturally left handed?

When practicing has not produced the results needed then see an Occupational Therapist. Will you then feel naturally left hand dominant?

Would medication help?

Do you think that using your natural dominant hand would be a more practical solution?

Using phonic programs for a dyslexic is similar to forcing you to use your non-dominant hand to print/write. Would you prefer to be forced to use your non-dominant hand or be allowed to use your dominate hand?

Hopefully in the near future dyslexia will be accepted and the dyslexic will be allowed to use their visual learning style rather than be forced to adapt or fail to adapt to an unnatural learning style.