

# Let's Talk Learning Disabilities

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## EPISODE 10

In this Episode, Laurie and Abbey share about the topic of dysgraphia. They discuss ways to recognize it, provide insight into typical accommodations available, and offer practical resources to help those who are diagnosed.

### Recognizing Dysgraphia (1 min)

Dysgraphia is essentially poor handwriting as a result of a lack of ability to form letters or numbers correctly. Dysgraphic individuals may show signs such as too much pressure, poorly formed letters, inappropriate spacing between words or letters or even many erasures or crossouts. They may struggle with retrieving the words in their brains and getting them on paper.

### Assessing & Diagnosing Dysgraphia (6 min)

Rather than a single assessment, dysgraphia, like many other learning disabilities is recognized by assessing and ruling out other possible disabilities such as audio/visual processing disorders. Once a preponderance of evidence is gathered about how the individual processes and learns, you can then recognize that an individual has dysgraphia.

### Working Through Dysgraphia (9 min)

Laurie & Abbey share about several workarounds and apps that are helpful to students who struggle with dysgraphia. Snap Type is an app that allows students to take a picture of a worksheet, type in their answers, and then print out the work they've done. Mod Math is a math related app that doesn't calculate problems for the student, but will allow them to set up problems in the correct rows and columns, which in turns helps them to reduce errors. Additionally, Laurie & Abbey stress the importance of typing skills and what a great skill that can be to improve.

### Accommodations for Dysgraphic Individuals (15 min)

Accommodations as simple as pencil grippers are writing aides that can make it easier for dysgraphic individuals to write. Paper that has the lines raised may also be helpful to feel the tactile range of motion. Highlighting the margins inside is also helpful to give a warning of where to start making space at the end of a line. Handwriting practice is helpful, and can be much more possible if it's made fun. When the students get older, help filling out scantrons can also be a helpful accommodation.

### **Writing Camp & Occupational Therapy (19 min)**

Occupational Therapy can be so helpful to individuals with Dysgraphia. Many times Occupational Therapists will host writing camps or writing clinics to help provide guidance and practice for students. Occupational Therapy is a resource available if you are already under the special education umbrella in public schools. However, if you are not already under the special education umbrella, occupational therapy may be accessible for you through a private practice and could even be covered through insurance.

### **Resources:**

Recommended apps:

SnapType: <http://www.snaptypesapp.com>

ModMath: <http://www.modmath.com>

Contact info for the podcast: [letstalklearningdisabilities@gmail.com](mailto:letstalklearningdisabilities@gmail.com)

E-Diagnostic Learning Website: <https://ediagnosticlearning.com>

Social:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eDiaglearning/>

Twitter: @diaglearning

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/diagnostic-learning-services/>

Instagram: @diaglearning

Dysgraphia Examples

1. and

1st Grade Dysgraphia Sample

2. the

The image shows two examples of handwritten words on lined paper. The first example is the word 'and', written in a highly irregular, cursive-like script with many loops and overlapping letters. The second example is the word 'the', also written in a very messy, unrecognizable style with overlapping letters and loops.

FIRST GRADE-SPRING "TYPICAL"

Spelling

6. cat	21. _____
7. in	22. _____
8. be	23. _____
9. gem	24. _____
10. fix	25. _____
11. cap	26. _____
12. cid	27. _____
13. _____	28. _____
14. _____	29. _____
15. _____	30. _____
16. _____	31. _____
17. _____	32. _____
18. _____	33. _____
19. _____	34. _____
20. _____	35. _____

The image shows a spelling list for first grade students. The list contains 35 numbered lines. The first six lines have handwritten words: 'cat', 'in', 'be', 'gem', 'fix', and 'cap'. The remaining lines are blank. The handwriting is very messy and unrecognizable, characteristic of dysgraphia. The words are written in a cursive-like style with many loops and overlapping letters.

was The field trip for the film arose  
to go to the Zoo. ① The classes  
wanted to go to the Zoo and wanted  
certification for them.

### 5th Grade Dysgraphia Sample

One day at school, Multiple classes were trying to  
figure out how to fund the proposed bus for them. After  
multiple hours of discussion, the classes had no idea how  
to raise money. The teacher and their parents decided to let  
the students be in charge of the project. The students  
were given a list of things to do and a budget. The  
next morning when the students came to school  
they had been making the first part of the money. They had  
improved by having the teacher help them with the  
up to ~~the~~ Executive Director who had  
had to be heard by the school.

### 11th Grade Dysgraphia Sample