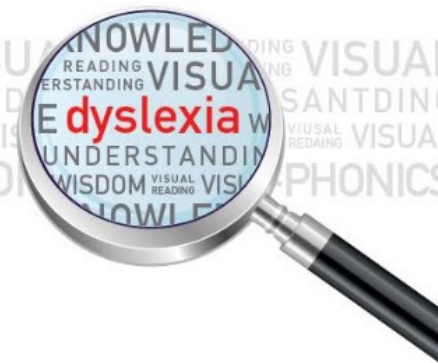




Newsletter

Newsletter of The Dyslexia Association www.dyslexia.org.au Frank Passmore, Secretary Contact email: contact@dyslexia.org.au phone: 0413 117 323 September 2019

“This will never amount to anything... go and stand in the hallway.”

Dav Pilkey's teacher ripped up one of his cartoons in front of his Grade 2 classmates and sent him to stand outside the classroom.

Diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia, Dav Pilkey struggled to focus, remain still and 'behave properly' in class . He was often criticised by his teachers and was made to feel very inadequate.

Pilkey's classmates, however, loved his cartoons, his humour and the Captain Underpants comic books he had begun to make.

Undeterred by his teacher's actions, Dav Pilkey continued to make his comic books.

Fortunately, Pilkey's parents were very supportive of him, encouraged him to continue with his cartoons and helped realise his 'disabilities' were, in reality, an amazing talent.

At college, Pilkey's talent was noticed and he was encouraged to become a children's author eventually having his first Captain Underpants books published when he was aged 31.

Just over 20 years later the Captain Underpants series has been translated into 30 languages with over 80 million books sold world wide.

Dav Pilkey's main characters, Harold and George, like Pilkey, have ADHD, are fun, creative, mischievous and bright, but were bored in school.

Their plight, and Dav Pilkey's, is similar to around 10% of the general population who are



Captain Underpants images from Dreamworks and Amazon.com

creative and tend to think pictorially rather than in words. Captain Underpants should, perhaps, be an important part of their reading.

Such students often struggle with 2 dimensional symbols such as punctuation marks, small (sight) words which make up most of our sentences and sometimes maths symbols thus failing the prime purpose of many classrooms while their considerable talents in more creative areas of thinking are neglected.

In the traditional schoolroom, creative talents are often hidden by the emphasis on literacy and maths.

Teachers' awareness and ability to recognise these talented children, usually found in any class, can have very positive results if classrooms are to be inclusive and geared to cater for all students not just the favoured majority.

It is a very challenging option if teachers are to be equipped with observational skills which help

them see past their own natural tendency as word thinkers (not all teachers, but most) and recognise those students who tend to think more in pictures and who need a more visually oriented set of learning strategies.

Dyslexia WA does go some way by offering information sessions which provide teachers, and others, with some insights to assist them to recognise students with dyslexia and related conditions which hinder students' efforts to succeed in a traditional word-orientated classroom.

Some teachers themselves are visual-spatial thinkers who find themselves using their talents to instruct students in arts, music, drama, science, sport and other creative pursuits.

Building awareness of those students who display creative talents and are usually found in every class may do much to alleviate the frustration and barriers to learning experienced by clever people like Dav Pilkey.



Contact us at **Dyslexia WA** if you feel we could assist... www.dyslexiawa.com.au

Dyslexia: not a disability, but a visual-spatial thinking style which succeeds with a visual-spatial teaching style.

Symbol Mastery enables individuals to permanently eliminate confusion

Symbols, alphabet letters, numerals, punctuation marks and abstract words (no mental picture) cause the dyslexic confusion which can be eliminated using clay to make a 3D model showing the symbol with the meaning.

Dyslexics learn to read them easily with full comprehension.

Symbol Mastery is used world wide by facilitators similar to those at www.dyslexia.org.au. They assist clients to achieve specific program goals, as shown by facilitator Christine Thesiger of **Dyslexia Made Easy**, Auckland New Zealand.

Matt, a 19 year old apprentice mechanic was told by his boss unless he got his dyslexia

sorted out he would never pass his trade qualifications.

He could not fill out job cards, as no one could understand his writing; however he obviously had great mechanical abilities. He could “hear” what was wrong with an engine.

Continued overleaf...

Luke turns his dream into reality

Luke de Laeter, a 17 year old beekeeper from Bicton, WA, is a fine example of the entrepreneurial talent which dyslexic people often display when given the opportunity.

His mother is a sustainability teacher who realised Luke had an interest in bees and provided him with the beginnings of a bee colony when he was 14.

It lit the flame which has turned into a passion and Luke has now developed his work from a hobby into a profession by taking his knowledge into schools and educating students about the benefits and skills of apiary.

Featured on the August 30 episode of Gardening Australia on the ABC, Luke said "I've got a passion and I want to share knowledge about the environment, and I want to educate others about the problems bees are facing".



Photo: Robert Koenig-Luck, ABC News

Luke's significant talent, hidden by dyslexia, has been allowed to develop into it's true potential

Luke's 2 hives, set up near the backyard vegie patch for pollination, have been registered with the Department of Agriculture and **Luke's Bees**

is now a licensed food business, complying with six-monthly inspections, enabling him to sell his honey legally.

Luke can also tell from the flavour of the honey which flowering plants the bees have visited.

The Wesley school student has been taking his message about beekeeping, the major importance of bees to the environment and plant pollination to around 60 schools now over nearly 2 years.

He is the youngest member of the WA Apiarist's Society and has used his IT skills to benefit the society's technology.

Luke is off to a flyer in terms of a successful career and business and his dyslexia is a significant factor in enabling him to visualise that pathway.



40 % of the world's self made millionaires have dyslexia!

Long before he was a billionaire businessman or had "Sir" attached to his name, Richard Branson was made to feel "stupid."

As a kid, he was actually beaten regularly – by the headmaster. The reason: his dyslexia.

"People were either assumed to be stupid in school or bright in school, and I was definitely

put into the former class," the Virgin Group founder said in an interview with USA TODAY. He didn't know he was dyslexic until he was in his 20s.

The list of people, past and present, who have some form of dyslexia includes Steve Jobs,

Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Henry Ford, Mohammad Ali, Steven Spielberg and Keira Knightley.

Read more at:

<https://www.virgin.com/richard-branson/how-much-do-you-know-about-dyslexia>



Norway's Prime Minister silences a critic

From newsinenglish.no staff

Prime Minister Erna Solberg has been open about her life-long struggle with dyslexia, and perhaps never more so than this week, when she faced criticism over a message she had written on her Facebook page.

Solberg wrote Monday night that she had just had a "fantastic" dinner with "colourful women" from various ethnic backgrounds. Her message contained



both spelling and grammatical errors that were picked up by a reader who wrote that "I think Norway's prime minister should have assistants who can write correct Norwegian." His own message contained several spelling errors as well.

"I have dyslexia and write myself," responded Solberg in a blunt reaction that silenced her critic completely. News bureau NTB reported that he not only apologized for his comments but ended up removing them from the social media site.

From the first page...

He had no understanding of the months and seasons and this hindered him both in his personal life as well as his job.

Following mastery of the concept of time Christine successfully assisted Matt's creation of a model of how the months and seasons connect with the standard of measuring time (the solar system).

Matt's model is shown here.

In addition to knowing the months and the seasons, Matt now does service work on vehicles in half the time.

He fills out job cards that are legible enough for others to read, and is able to read notes from his girlfriend.

(from The Dyslexic Reader No 76)

Christine Thesiger, a dyslexic herself, now enables other dyslexics to achieve success...

Have a look at her Dyslexia Made Easy SoulPod Movie at

<https://vimeo.com/116730464>

