

Unlock Your Personal Dyslexia Story

Keeping it Compact and Impactful

When you write or meet with legislators you will generally be given no more than a 15 minute appointment and that may even be cut short due to scheduling changes. It is important for you to prepare to share your experience with dyslexia in a compact and impactful manner.

You should first write your experience in an organic free flowing fashion. That is, just get your story out, let your child get their feelings out. Once the larger story is expressed, it then needs to be condensed into something closer to what is often called an “elevator” speech to share.

The reason for the condensing of the story is not to discredit the story, to the contrary, you and your child’s story is so important it needs to be heard! It must be short **and impactful**, because legislatures give only 15 minutes appointments and they hear many stories from many constituents. The goal is for your story to be *the story* they want to remember and help, because it is **honest, sincere, impactful, and there are practical evidence based solutions!**

The following is an outline to help you condense your and/or your child’s story, be sure to check out our website for links to the current bills dyslexia talking points, and more valuable information:

Beginning: Share the basics: who are you, who is your child, are you a teacher or other service provider? Share some positives: how has your child been successful with tutoring or other remediations that you have been able to provide? Share the amazing gifts in your child such as their imagination, etc.

Middle: What are your concerns? Define your struggles and concerns clearly. Give **real life examples**; “My child has been tested and the subjective tests show that he is 2 grade levels behind in his reading abilities/writing/spelling etc. yet, the school tells me that he does not qualify for services.” “My child is getting services but they are not making any impact. The services are not based on evidence based programs for dyslexics. For **example**: it is my understanding the intervention should be one on one for at least 2 hours a week, but they have him meeting in a small group for 20 minutes three times a week and there has been no appreciable impact in the last 12 months.”

The End: Then you want to express why the legislation we are seeking is important to you.

Example: tax credit: tell them how much you spend or have spent in the past on tutoring, assessments, or private school tuition and how getting a tax credit will alleviate your family of some burdens. Also, the credit will give some legitimacy to your child’s needs that the school is not giving currently.

Example: hiring dyslexia specialist: tell them how you have teachers who want to help your child, but are stifled by a lack of knowledge, administrations who don’t seem to understand, or so forth and how having specialists would be an asset to the teachers, schools, and most important to the children.

Ask about their position on the bills: Are they supportive? Is there more information they would like or need? Be thankful for their time even if they are not supportive!