HAPPY NEW YEAR LITERACY LEADERS!

I hope that everyone had some time to relax, enjoy time with family and friends, and maybe even do some reading for enjoyment!

For those of you who don’t know me, I am your NDLA President, and I teach Title I reading and math in Rolla. I will not go into all of my responsibilities, duties, and professional groups that I am involved in. I will tell you that the many things I am involved in have all worked together to help me do what I do, whether that is in the classroom, working on a committee anywhere with others, or helping lead this organization.

There are always ups and downs with jobs and positions. The North Dakota Literacy Association (NDLA) wants to continue to lead in the area of Literacy. We can only do that with the help and commitment of every member or every potential member. We are a professional organization, so we want to provide opportunities for you in your professional life, but we want to be able to do that in a way that doesn’t take huge amounts of time away from your family, your job, and your other duties. We are all busy people and have many responsibilities.

This is your organization, so we need to hear from you. We need to know what you want from NDLA and your preference for how you would like to receive professional growth/development from us. We want to give back to you because this is your organization!

NDLA’s Mission is “Leaders in Literacy-Promoting Reading”.

Let’s Talk about Dyslexia
My name is Heather Erickson. I taught kindergarten for 6 years before taking a leave of absence after my daughter was born this past March.

**About Me**

**My Favorites**

- **Color:** Purple
- **Food:** Tacos
- **Drink:** Dr. Pepper
- **Hobby:** Reading
- **Playlist:** Sirius XM The Highway

**TEACHER TIPS & TRICKS**

Don't forget to read to your students for fun too!
Dyslexia is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects reading and spelling.

Early word reading skills refers to the fundamental abilities that young children develop to recognize and understand written language, or decoding portion of the simple view of reading. Phonemic awareness, letter recognition, phonics, sight word reading, and fluency are all part of the early word reading skills. Early word reading skills are vital for individuals with dyslexia due to their specific challenges in processing written language. Children with dyslexia struggle to break words apart into their respective blend sounds to form a word, connect letters with their sounds, and sounds in general. Many students resort to memorizing words, or guessing at words.

**PHONEMIC AWARENESS**

*Definition:* involves recognizing and manipulating individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.

**BENEFICIAL PRACTICES**

“teachers can help students identify beginning, medial, and ending sounds in words. Then work on blending & and segmenting simple words”

**PHONICS**

*Definition:* relationship between letters & their associated sounds.

**BENEFICIAL PRACTICES**

“teachers should emphasize the connection between letters and their respective sounds. Exploring words parts (-it, -at, -igh) can also help students break larger words into parts they know.”
SIGHT WORD RECOGNITION

Definition: sight words are commonly referred to in school as high-frequency words that children should recognize instantly, without needing to sound them out.

BENEFICIAL PRACTICES

“like letter recognition, repetition, and practice are some of the best ways to learn sight words. Many sight words are also only one or two sounds off from being decodable. So increasing phonics knowledge can also improve sight word recognition”

LETTER RECOGNITION

Definition: being able to identify & differentiate between letters of the alphabet.

BENEFICIAL PRACTICES

“repetition and practice are essential in having students recognize letters. This can be done through games and flashcards”

ACHIEVING READING FLUENCY

Can be a struggle for individuals with dyslexia, as they generally need to spend more time decoding words, which leaves less cognitive resources to comprehend the overall meaning of the text.

FLUENCY

Definition: involves reading with accuracy, speed, and expression. Developing fluency allows children to read smoothly and understand the text more easily.

BENEFICIAL PRACTICES

“activities such as repeated & wide reading are beneficial in improving fluency. Repeated reading is reading the same text a number of times in a row. Wide reading is exposure to a number of different texts to expand students’ background knowledge and exposure to a variety of words”
1. Not all students with dyslexia reverse letters or words.

2. There is no quick fix for dyslexia.

3. Dyslexia is not due to a lack of effort or from being lazy.

4. Using Vision Therapy is not a treatment that will help a dyslexic student.

5. Dyslexia is not a developmental lag.

6. Dyslexia is not a visual problem.
You do not need to be assessed as having dyslexia in order to get intervention.

You do not need to wait until the age of 8 to test for dyslexia.

Using tinted lenses is not an effective treatment for dyslexia.

So called treatments for dyslexia that share pictures of brains and testimonials, and make claims relating to neuroscience do not mean they are an effective approach or that they have any supported research.

Book Recommendation by The Dyslexia Classroom

UP COMING EVENTS

SOUTH CENTRAL LITERACY CHAPTER
VIRTUAL & SELF PACED EVENTS THROUGH VOICE THREAD

NORTH CENTRAL READING COUNCIL
NOTHING PLANNED

PRAIRIE LITERACY COUNCIL
NOTHING PLANNED

CHAUTAUQUA LITERACY COUNCIL
NOTHING PLANNED

NEW MERCH SHOP

NEW DESIGNS UPLOADED MONTHLY!