



Who Is Dr. Kathy A. Thomas?

"I love working with children & young adults to find ways to succeed in spite of learning problems like Dyslexia!"

Dr. Kathy



A special advisor to *Orchard Human Services, Inc.*, Dr. Kathy has over 15 years experience in **Education & Juvenile Justice**, promoting innovations in developmentally oriented child and youth services. Former **Associate Professor of Teaching & Learning** at *Nova Southeastern Univ.*, Dr. Kathy has diverse teaching and intervention experience in public and private classrooms, with the developmentally challenged, and in residential and juvenile justice settings. With masters' in **Criminal Justice** from *Northeastern Univ.* and **Education** from *Tufts Univ.*, Dr. Kathy's terminal degree in **Child & Youth Studies** and post-doctoral certificate in **Qualitative Research** are also from *Nova*.

What is an Educational Therapist?

"An educational therapist is a professional who combines educational and therapeutic approaches for evaluation, remediation, case management, and communication/advocacy on behalf of children, adolescents and adults with learning disabilities or learning problems."

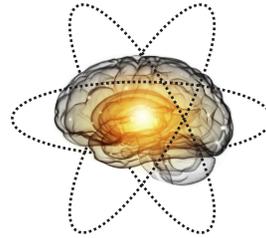
- Retrieved Online From:
Association of Educational Therapists
www.aetonline.org

What is Dyslexia?

"Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge."

- Retrieved Online From:
International Dyslexia Association
<https://dyslexiaida.org>

Why Educational Therapy?



Student Challenges

- Attention Problems
- Boredom or Frustration
- Challenge with Focusing
- Intense Emotional Reactions
- Feeling Completely Overwhelmed
- Lack of Interest or Motivation
- Memory Challenges
- Mental Confusion
- Poor Grades

Parental Fears & Concerns

- Academic Failure
- Behavior Problems
- Bickering with Family/Peers
- Child Acting Depressed or Disinterested
- Concern About Child's Mental State
- Not Knowing How To Help
- Trouble With School



Educational Therapy Solutions

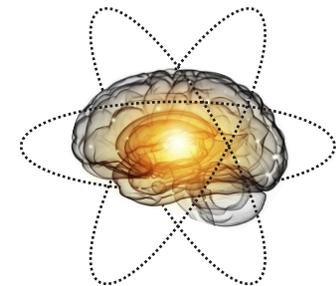
- Cognitive Techniques
- Communication Skills
- Social & Emotional Capacities
- Emotional Self-Regulation Skills
- Metacognitive Awareness
- Executive Control
- Self-Awareness

Dyslexia & Educational Therapy



**A compassionate,
therapeutic and
brain-based
response**

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Let me explain how I see Educational Therapy

Educational Therapy is a unique discipline that supports individualized instruction and innovative academic intervention designed to “remediate” and activate learning when school success becomes a challenge. This approach is based upon translational science (translating research into best practice) and evidence-based instruction as an “emerging approach to rethinking and transforming educational practices” to support individuals who struggle to “acquire language functions” (Berninger & Wolf, 2012, p. 3).

References:

Berninger, V. W., & Wolf, B. J. (2016). Dyslexia, dysgraphia, OWL LD, and dyscalculia (2nd edition). Baltimore:MD, Paul H. Brookes Publishing.
Langston, R. W. (2012). The power of dyslexic thinking: How a learning disability shaped six successful careers. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

Signs + Symptoms Your Child Might Need Help



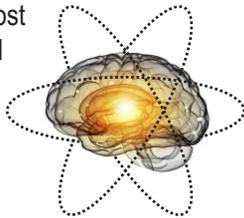
Many signs and symptoms may signal the presence of a learning challenge ... and parents are often the first educator to recognize that a problem potentially exists even before the child enters school. Children with learning challenges benefit from a collaborative approach that includes parents, teachers, therapists, medical providers, and other stakeholders in the life of the child. This team can work to rule out normal developmental factors and to pinpoint challenges that may interfere with learning and development before the child enters school. In other cases, as with dyslexia, the problem may not be evident until much later. Challenges with learning, reading, and math may only be noticeable after a child is in school. In other cases, individuals may notice challenges with managing time, focus, and attention after they are in a personal, academic, or professional environment that exceeds their inner coping capacities. Here are some signs and symptoms that may indicate your child needs help ...

- frustration
- lack of focus
- seems sad or withdrawn
- trouble remembering
- confused about new places or things
- giving up easily
- challenged with learning new information
- mixing up letters, numbers, shapes, words, phrases
- hiding books or school work
- asking for help over and over again
- feeling stupid or not good enough
- forgetting to do assignments
- trouble keeping up with schedule



Identifying Strengths

Educational Therapists work from a strength-based perspective. They seek out the strengths and unique capacities of the learner as resources for achieving learning goals. The Educational Therapy intervention utilizes the learner’s innate strengths in combination with the brain’s natural neuroplastic potential to boost learning, regulation, executive function, overall performance, and personal satisfaction. Dyslexia, specifically, is further supported by a specialized phonics intervention strategy that supports reading and comprehension.



Finding Clues to Effective Strategies



Educational Therapy involves searching for clues about which strategies are most likely to produce success for the individual learner. Whether dealing with Dyslexia, Learning or Reasoning, Math, or Self-Regulating challenges ... Educational Therapy seeks out and identifies clues that point to the best learning and intervention strategies for each child, youth, and adult. This investigation requires creative and innovative academic engagement with the student to build a collaborative, trustworthy, and supportive relationship. The partnership between the learner and the Educational Therapist supports specific and focused intervention strategies that reach toward learning success and personal satisfaction for the learner. Some of the strategies incorporated in an Educational Therapy intervention include ...

- Emotional Self-Regulation
- Metacognitive Skills
- Executive Function
- Self-Awareness
- Communication Strategies
- Social Capacities
- Self-Determination



Give Dr. Kathy a call today ... to ask questions, find answers ... and put your mind at ease

Kathy A Thomas, Ed.D. is an Educational Therapist serving children, youth, and adults with learning challenges - including dyslexia - to build psychoeducational capacities with brain-based strategies and organic curricular resources. The goal of Educational Therapy is to meet each individual's developmental and cognitive needs and goals by way of an efficient and multidisciplinary academic pathway to support learning success and satisfaction.

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