

The Importance of Early Identification

□ by Dyslexic Advantage Team, dyslexicadvantage.org

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John Alexander of Groves Academy recently shared his frustration with the slowness of schools adopting early identification of dyslexia. Fortunately, though, progress is being made with state education laws.



“In September, 1998, we gave an assessment to all 450 kindergarten students in the district to determine those students who were at risk of developing a reading issue later in school. We determined that 130 of them (almost 30%) were at risk. These students were then placed in an intervention program for three, twenty-minute periods each week....These second graders who were part of the identification and intervention project scored significantly better on their reading assessment than second grade students from years past. In addition, Title 1 services for reading support and special education referrals were reduced by an astounding 85%! Not only were many students spared the humility and frustration that comes with having difficulty learning to read, the school district was going to save a great deal of money because students did not require more intensive services...This program cost just over \$200 per pupil for the entire three years, a cost of about \$73 per student per year.”