

NW Iowa Dyslexia Support Group Winter/Spring 2025 Meetings

7:00 pm Sioux Center Public Library

Most of our meetings occur on the **3rd Thursday** of every month. This is a change from last year.

January 16, 2025	7:00PM	Homework Help—Strategies for Persisting Through Difficult Tasks with Sarah Hawley, BCBA
		Join us to learn more about how to support dyslexic students and students with other learning disabilities who struggle to persist through difficult tasks, especially homework. Sarah Hawley, a board certified Behavior Analyst and licensed Behavior Analyst in the state of Iowa, will be sharing strategies parents can use at home to support their child who may be refusing, avoiding, or reacting strongly to homework or other difficult tasks due to their dyslexia, ADHD, or other learning disability. Ms. Hawley has a M.A. in Special Education with an emphasis in Autism Spectrum Disorders and has worked as a Behavior Analyst in the school setting. She is also currently Clinical Director of the Dordt University Thrive ABA Center. Educators, parents, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about dyslexia is welcome to attend.
February 20, 2025	7:00 PM	Dyslexia and the Social/Emotional Effects Part Two
		Join us to hear from our guest speaker, Ashley Anderson, a licensed social worker from Sioux Center Health, on how dyslexia can affect your students' mental health on a daily basis. She will discuss how school can create trauma for these students, how teachers can assist students with dyslexia in self-regulation, and what they can do or avoid doing in the classroom to support dyslexic students. Educators, parents, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about dyslexia is welcome to attend.
March 20, 2025	7:00 PM	Executive Function: What is it?
		Join us as we discuss executive function—what it is, how it affects our dyslexic students at home and at school, and ways to help support all students with weak executive functioning. Educators, parents, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about dyslexia is welcome to attend.
April 10, 2025	7:00 PM	“Our Dyslexic Children” Viewing and Discussion NOTE THE DATE
		Join us to watch and discuss the short film “Our Dyslexic Children,” produced in part by parents of dyslexic children, and winner of Best Long Form Short Film at the Toronto Documentary Feature and Short Film Festival in 2022. “Our Dyslexic Children” chronicles how a group of parents in Ohio, concerned that their dyslexic children could not read, banded together to file a group complaint against their district with the Ohio Department of Education. They eventually joined the school district to create an early literacy program that is now nationally recognized. They also founded the non-profit, Parents for Reading Justice, which assists parents in advocating for their dyslexic children. Educators, parents, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about dyslexia is welcome to attend.