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Last Updated: 9:48 pm | Sunday, March 30, 2008

Love for child turns into business

BY RODGER ROESER | EASTERNHILLS@COMMUNITYPRESS.COM

Tyrws ghnbv rtpmnbz.

That's what this first line looks like if you suffer from dyslexia.

It was this suffering that caused Shelley Dannenberg to leave her teaching job and go full time into helping those suffering from dyslexia overcome the neurological malady.

Dannenberg is the founder of Dyslexia Testing and Information Services.

She is making her personal journey in helping daughter Delaney overcome her dyslexia to helping caregivers throughout Greater Cincinnati recognize and take steps to overcome this often debilitating condition.

Dannenberg, a teacher by trade, worked with children experiencing learning disabilities where she taught reading at the Springer School.

This expertise would become invaluable in helping her daughter move beyond her dyslexia.

"My daughter went to a very good school, but she was struggling from the get-go. In reading, she just had such difficulty recognizing words and she was reversing letters. She didn't recognize vowels," Dannenberg said.

"Delaney is a gregarious, leader-type young lady - very outgoing. But, she struggled with her schoolwork. We had tutors. We worked with her at home. My background helped, but it just kept getting worse.

"Homework that was easy would just laboriously take hours and she would exclaim that she just hated school, and slide under the table," she said.

So, Shelley had her daughter tested for learning disabilities at Springer, and was diagnosed with dyslexia.

Delaney was "masterful at fooling people," because she was exceptionally intelligent and developed coping mechanisms to overcome her learning issues.

When Dannenberg attended a graduate-level course in California on diagnosing dyslexia, it changed her life's work.

"I went really more to empower myself as a mother, and I came back with this burning desire to help others and raise awareness about the importance of testing your children and working with them to overcome dyslexia," she said.

So, Dannenberg started Dyslexia Testing and Information Services to help and educate parents, grandparents, teachers and caregivers on proper recognition and treatment - ever-diligent to remind them that dyslexia does not in any way mean a child has a low IQ or a learning disability - in fact, quite the opposite.

She advises parents with a family history of dyslexia to have their children tested right away.

For others, she suggests watching out for simple struggles in school particularly as it relates to writing and spelling.

"It never goes away, but the goal is to keep the child mainstream. They are not developmentally handicapped, but just need to learn a new way of thinking and retrain the brain in terms of language," Dannenberg said. "Early intervention is key."

Dannenberg provides a workshop for parents and teachers to educate them regarding dyslexia. The fee for the workshop is \$350. Handouts and a one-sheet brochure on the "Warning Signs of

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Workshop syllabus

The following is a syllabus those attending Shelley Dannenberg's Dyslexia Testing and Information Services workshop will follow.

1. Definition
2. Impact
3. Causes
4. Warning Signs
5. Co-existing Conditions
6. Strengths
7. Weaknesses
8. Accommodations
 - a. Spelling
 - b. Reading
 - c. Auditory processing
 - d. Handwriting
 - e. Written expression
 - f. Homework
 - g. Memory

Dyslexia" are available.

If a caregiver feels their child may have an issue, Dannenberg said to contact her at sbd@dtisinfo.com or just call her at 616-0261 to set up an appointment.

h. Testing

9. Technology Tools

10. Tutoring

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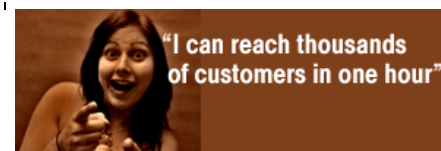
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