

Running Home

Dyslexia is a neurobiological difference that occurs in as much as 15% of the population, making it difficult for them to read.

If you have ever seen a little league baseball game, imagine that the diamond is a kid's brain – the part that decodes written language. A kid without dyslexia comes up to home plate and a word is pitched to him from the page. He hits it and charges off to first base where his brain decodes the symbols, then he runs to second where his brain gives the symbols meaning, then he runs to third where his brain puts the meaning into context, and then he runs home...all in a small fraction of a second. And word after word, this goes on like clockwork.

Now, a kid with dyslexia steps up to the plate and receives a word off the page. He hits it, and then.. stands there, not sure where to run. His brain deals with the word less efficiently. He may start for third, without first decoding the symbols; maybe his right brain can make sense of it.

With coaching, the dyslexic kid will find a base path that brings him home, but in a typical classroom, he is thrown out at the plate because he is too slow.

- trainee, 2015 (tutor and parent of a dyslexic child)