

My name is Stephanie Harrouff. I am the proud mother of two Dyslexic children. I want to tell you the story of my daughter Jessica. She felt from an early age that she was different. When she was in Kindergarten she got mono and missed some phonics training. The teachers kept telling us that she would catch up, and not to worry. We became very worried by 3rd grade, she spent more time than normal trying to keep up and we spent all our time trying to help her, we knew something was different but felt the teachers and the school knew what was best. She struggled in school but always made good grades. The reading, spelling and writing was a nightmare, she would have the information one day and it was gone the next. She spent hours and hours studying for tests only to fail them. She was very frustrated and felt stupid. There were many nights that she would just cry and call herself stupid. There were many nights we would cry and be frustrated. She is above average IQ and couldn't understand why she couldn't remember spelling words or facts that she knew the day before. The school tested her and said that she was a slow learner and she didn't qualify for Special Education. The summer after 5th grade we had her evaluated by an Educational Physiologist and she was found to be severely/profoundly Dyslexic. With no one in the Augusta area to help her, I took the necessary classes to help her. She started remediation in the summer after 5th grade. During Middle School she would spend all of her time studying and struggling. She did not have a social life outside of school, there was no time for that, and she wanted to keep her grades up. During 7th grade the school had sent a notice of Truancy. That was eventually dropped due to the fact that she was not missing any core class for her remediation. She finished remediation at the end of 8th grade. She has a 504 plan that has given her the help and support from the schools that she needs. She has maintained at 3.0 GPA and now is a very confident young woman and has a very bright future ahead of her. She went on to get her Associates Degree in Pre Vet. She is grateful for the chance to be able to read and spell and it has opened up a whole new world for her. Jessica is now 23 and a very productive member of society.

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