

# Learning Differences

We believe learners of all kinds should be recognized, supported and empowered to thrive, especially youth with dyslexia and related learning differences that are classified as learning disabilities.

### What's at Stake: The Issue

Literacy

is the **#1 predictor** of

individual success and

community prosperity

Mastering early literacy is critical for future education, workforce and social-emotional success.



youth (age 3-20) in the U.S. have learning & attention issues

20%

**Early Milestones** 

65%

of 4th Graders

DO NOT read
at grade level



457

children learn to read by the 3rd grade, then they Read to Learn

## Only 1 in 6

students who are below reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade ever catch up

#### **High School Impact**

in 2013/14 students with learning disabilities

Dropped Out at combined rate nearly

3x

of all students

6.5%

all students

18.1%

w/ specific

pecific w/ other health
D impairments

17.6%

### It's a personal journey

"It was heartbreaking to see our daughter struggle to learn to read. She dreaded reading aloud in class, and worrying what her classmates thought affected her self-esteem. It wasn't until high school that we found out she has dyslexia. This diagnosis has helped her understand how her brain works, and realize that her difference gives her some advantages. I'm extremely proud of how hard she has worked to overcome these challenges—and not let them get in the way of her success."

—Dr. Larry Bucshon, U.S. Representative (R-IN)

## Early Learning + Early Literacy

Helps all students thrive, especially the 1 in 5.

Young learners (age 0-9) benefit from a community integration of practices.



### "Funding What Works": The Approach

Addressing the needs of Learning Differences takes a holistic, systems approach. No single program can address all young learners' needs. Instead, we work with and invest in people, communities and places that are best suited to explore and find what works. This section lends itself to a network theory... and these are the conditions:





organizing in a literacy-rich

environment.





## "It Takes a Community": Highlights

Boston, MA





#### Boston Children's Early Literacy Screener

BELS is the only dyslexia screener coming on to the market that addresses all 6 indicators of literacy. This self-administered app will identify struggling readers as young as 4 years old, rather than waiting until after there is a pattern of academic, social or behavioral stresses and challenges.

accelerator.childrenshospital.org





The Read by 4th campaign is leveraging community resources and changing behavior in homes – filling gaps in services in Philadelphia. Programs and initiatives embrace a holistic approach to increasing literacy among children from K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade by activating individuals as Reading Captains who embrace the Reading is Everywhere initiative.

readby4th.org



#### Vero Beach, FL

Literacy The Learning Alliance is innovating an enriched literacy program model through its Moonshot Moment Program. Elements of this are being identified and tested be scaled at a community level and serve as a national model.

thelearningalliance.org

#### Philadelphia, PA



AIM Pathways integrates the leading edge of online learning and seeks to solve for ways to affordably scale teacher training, while also providing a gateway to research-driven literacy practices and teacher training. This evidence-based platform will enable teachers to support the 1 in 5 with learning differences by providing and offering best practices for the 4 in 5.

aimpa.org

#### Vero Beach, FL



The Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative is engaging the Fellsmere community in early childhood development in order to improve outcomes for children from birth to age five and create a community-wide model for the future.

krcirc.org

#### Carroll County, GA





The SEE-KS framework empowers teachers to support students by using the most effective instructional strategies to foster social emotional engagement within classroom lessons through meaningful activities, multiple modes of instruction, and encouraging expression and social connections.

see-ks.com

"If we can figure out how to help more kids with dyslexia learn to read, that knowledge will provide the backbone for getting it right for all kids in all schools." - Ralph Smith, Creator & Managing Director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

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#### **Tremaine Foundation**

The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation seeks and funds innovative projects that advance solutions to basic and enduring problems.

Teacher