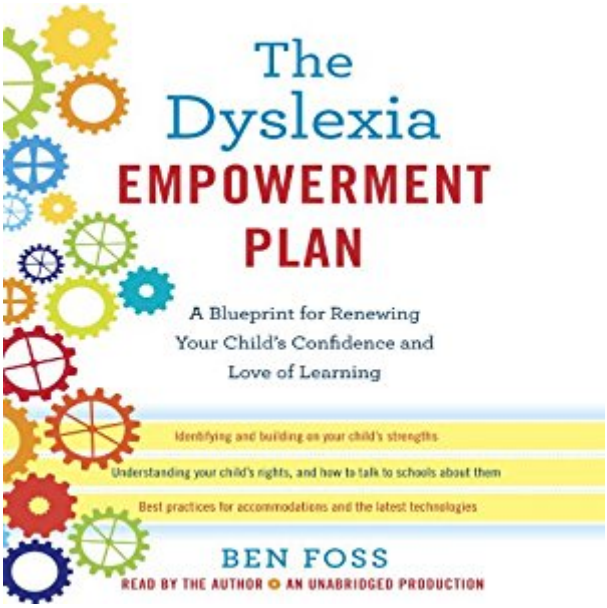
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The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan: A Blueprint For Renewing Your Child's Confidence And Love Of Learning



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Synopsis

Finally, a groundbreaking book that reveals what your dyslexic child is experiencing - and what you can do so that he or she will thrive. More than 30 million people in the United States are dyslexic - a brain-based genetic trait, often labeled as a "learning disability" or "learning difference", that makes interpreting text and reading difficult. Yet even though children with dyslexia may have trouble reading, they don’t have any problems learning; dyslexia has nothing to do with a lack of intellect. While other books tell you what dyslexia is, this book tells you what to do. Dyslexics’ innate skills, which may include verbal, social, spatial, kinesthetic, visual, mathematical, or musical abilities, are their unique key to acquiring knowledge. Figuring out where their individual strengths lie, and then harnessing these skills, offers an entrÃƒÆ’Ã Â©e into learning and excelling. And by keeping the focus on learning, not on standard reading the same way everyone else does, a child with dyslexia can and will develop the self-confidence to flourish in the classroom and beyond. After years of battling with a school system that did not understand his dyslexia and the shame that accompanied it, renowned activist and entrepreneur Ben Foss is not only open about his dyslexia, he is proud of it. In The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan he shares his personal triumphs and failures so that you can learn from his experiences, and provides a three-step approach for success: Identify your child’s profile Help your child help himself Create community Packed with practical ideas and strategies dyslexic children need for excelling in school and in life, this empowering guide provides the framework for charting a future for your child that is bright with hope and unlimited potential.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 10 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 45 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Random House Audio
Audible.com Release Date: August 27, 2013
Language: English
ASIN: B00EA2I4CA
Best Sellers Rank: #50 inÃ Â Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Special Education > Communicative Disorders #78 inÃ Â Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Special Education > Learning Disabled #117 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Education

Customer Reviews

I liked a lot of what Ben Foss had to say in this book. He had a number of good ideas and it is always good to see individual’s perspectives on their own experience. I like that the author spoke about the parent advocating for the needs of the child, but as I read through the book I was also struck by some of his limited perspective on many aspects of what is available today for dyslexic children.I will disclose my own bias - I am a dyslexic and have 3 dyslexic children. As a result, I have read far and wide on the topic and it appeared that at times when the author should have been mentioning more up-to-date research or ideas, he didn’t. I think what was holding me back from loving this book is that the goal is a bit more narrow that what the title mentions. This isn’t so much a blueprint for fostering an overall love of learning in dyslexic children, but navigating the school system for parents of dyslexic children. Now, this will be the route for the vast majority of parents of dyslexic children, so it will meet their needs quite well. However, if you are a parent who takes a much more hands on approach to your child’s education - this won’t quite meet your needs.One example, that has been pointed out by other reviewers, is Mr. Foss’ view of homeschooling. Mr. Foss states quite boldly that homeschooling isn’t appropriate for dyslexic children. Mr. Foss makes startling statements such as "Being able to socialize with other students and to learn from them is a big part of the adaptive techniques that many students who are dyslexic will use later in life." His assumption seems to be that home schooled students have no opportunity to "socialize with other students" which is completely contrary to what research into homeschooling has shown over time. He also makes the statement homeschoooling your child "can have a negative impact in the long term" - I would love to see his research stating this to be the case, because I just haven’t seen anything like this.He asserts that a child can only get accommodation in a professional school setting, again a completely false premise. For instance, one of the most widely used accommodations to help dyslexics with reading fluency - Reading Assistant - is available to homeschoolers and at a fraction of the price charged to public and private schools. The reading program based in the UK - EasyRead - has shown excellent results for dyslexic children and is again available to any English speaking homeschooling family. Other accommodations, like Learning Ally, are again available to homeschooling families. Children taking classes within the community (whether through a private coop or other area) will have available to them social interactions and the need for navigation that families of dyslexic students in the public school community will have. Basically, rather than simply saying he was unsure of what was available to homeschooling families and wouldn’t be speaking on that in this book - he simply dismissed it as harmful to children.Unfortunately, this tone was taken in not just this area, but others. While Mr.

Foss didn’t see his dyslexia as a "gift", that doesn’t mean others dyslexics don’t see it as a gift and not a disability. Not every dyslexic had the same experience as Mr. Foss and while my heart breaks for him, his story isn’t more valid than another dyslexic with a different experience. Throughout Mr. Foss’ book he talks down to or about individuals with a different lens than the one he wears and that is what makes what could have been a 5 star book a 3 star book. Mr. Foss chooses to share his story as "the" rule as opposed to "a rule".Again, it is full of really good information. The reader will just have to muddle through some not so great commentary sprinkled throughout.

Please listen to the audio version provided on the "" page for this book. Ben Foss shares his perspective of dyslexia here. Later, he refers to dyslexia as a "characteristic" (p.9), of the individual, instead of a disability. Further in this book, Ben provides a quick quizz that he recommends parents take first to assess themselves, then the children take to assess themselves. The comparison of the two quizzes will provide the parent and the child a better view of each person’s abilities. Now that you have results, you can take this information and have insightful, purposeful conversations with extended family members, teachers, church leaders, club leaders, and coaches. You will have the words to describe your child’s abilities and feel confident about sharing their characteristic with others. Truly a wonderful -"plan". I may add that as a parent, you are your child’s advocate at school. Have you ever felt that your teacher was in charge of your child and you weren’t? This book will help you be able to talk with your teacher using words that your teacher and the people in the Education field will recognize and respect. It is extremely helpful to know your child’s strengths and weaknesses so that you may introduce your child to their teacher in the best way.Throughout his book, Ben focuses on building a "plan" for you and your child. Beginning with understanding your child’s interests, finding accomodations for your child, and continuing with a better understanding of your rights as parents of a child who learns differently. There is so much content in this book. Ben is a truly providing an "Empowerment Plan" for the reader of this book.

I really liked the technology addressed in this book and the permission to not focus on eye-reading for my son’s whole school career freeing. I, like others, am a bit offended by the homeschooling as a last resort option. At least, one in 75 kids in America are homeschooled and it’s growing about 10% per year. The idea that it a better option to fight the school system for 12 years instead of homeschooling seems a bit of a waste of time. I realize that many two income families won’t homeschool, but I can’t think of a better nurturing environment than at home. Plus homeschooling curriculum both religious and secular rocks compared to most public school curriculum.Other than

that, the book was great and informative. Also I loved the personality questionaire to help me focus on my son’s strengths rather than his weaknesses. I have only read books that talk about Orton-Gillingham written by experts in the field, so they did not have the same passion for alternative ways of learning that Ben Foss explains.

Other reviewers have given more details. I just want to add that this is a book everyone with, or connected to someone with dyslexia, would benefit from reading. And that means just about everyone! Since 1 in 5 people are dyslexic, your life is already touched by someone who is dyslexic.

I have read several other books about dyslexia since my child was identified as being dyslexic and I would have to say that this one was my favorite. He gave excellent explanations as to why accommodations are important and even described various tools that can be used by dyslexic individuals. My daughter is has been "ear reading" or listening to audiobooks more and actually enjoys reading now where it was a chore when she had to eye read. His examples are wonderful and made my daughter’s position as a dyslexic child far more understandable to me. Most of the other books that I have read have been pretty dry but this book was well written and entertaining to read.

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