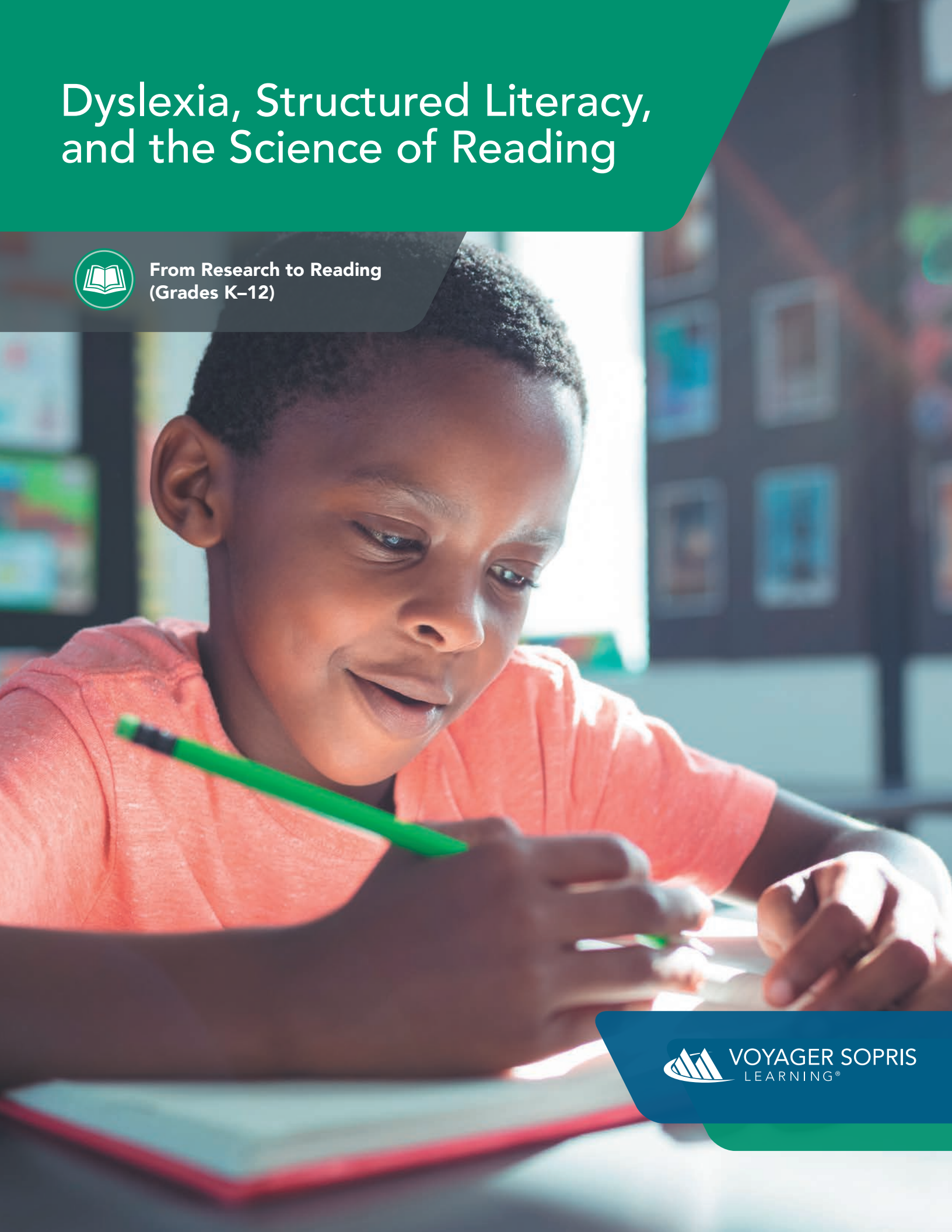
Dyslexia, Structured Literacy, and the Science of Reading

From Research to Reading (Grades K–12)



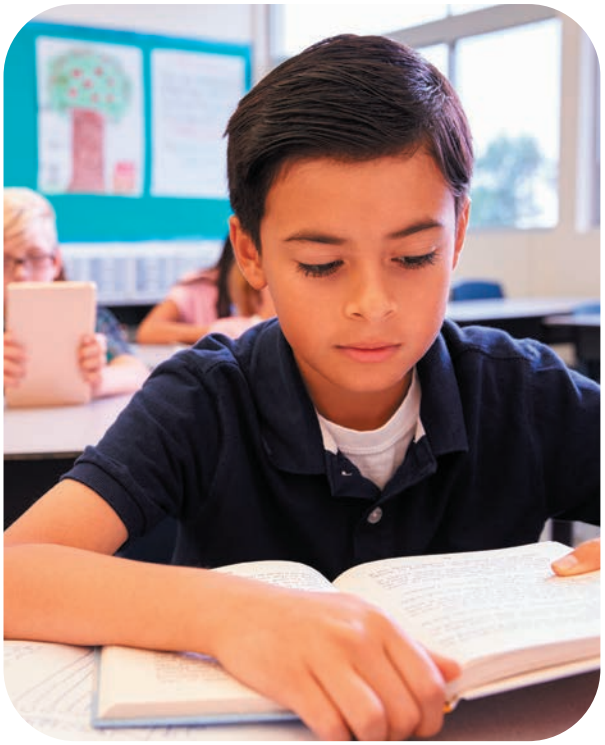
VOYAGER SOPRIS LEARNING®

What is the Science of Reading?

The science of reading is evidence from the accumulation of five decades of research on reading acquisition and instruction that has been conducted using gold-standard methodologies. This evidence has:

- **Established our understanding of how students learn to read**
- **Identified effective instructional practices**
- **Clarified instruction for students who have difficulty learning to read**

The science of reading is the only proven way to ensure students can become proficient readers and learners across the curriculum. Applied through Structured Literacy, instruction aligned with the science of reading benefits all students and is essential for those with reading difficulties.



How the Science of Reading Empowers Students With Dyslexia

Reading, speaking, spelling, and writing are often difficult for students with dyslexia. However, science of reading-based interventions with systematic and explicit instruction can help overcome these challenges.



WATCH THE EDVIEW360 WEBINAR

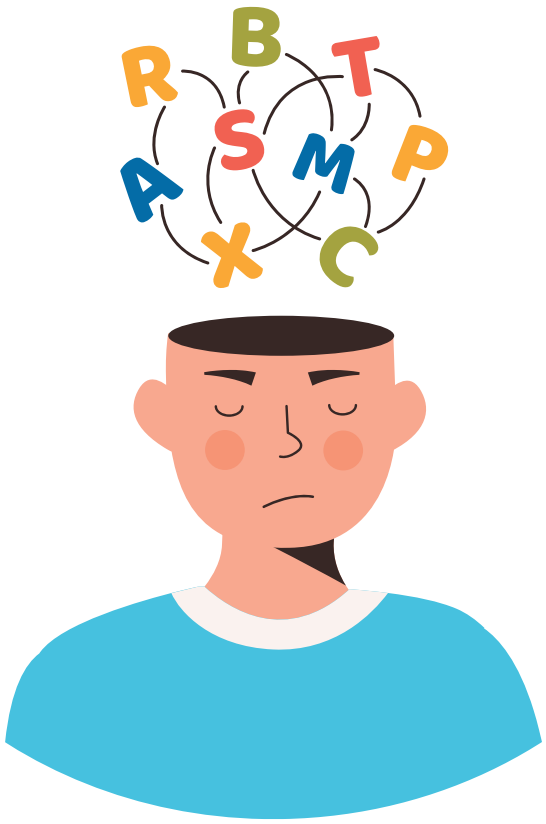
Phonemic Awareness and Letter/Sound Associations: Practices for Teachers

With an emphasis on how to teach phonemic awareness and letter/sound associations with effective Structured Literacy practices, this webinar shares strategies, resources, tips, and encouragement to literacy educators.

WATCH NOW →

Understanding Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a specific neurobiological language-based learning disability. Almost everyone with dyslexia can learn how to read successfully. Students with dyslexia often have trouble with accurate or fluent word recognition, spelling, and decoding. Research has shown dyslexia has no relationship to intelligence, and students with dyslexia are just as intelligent as students without it. Fifteen percent to 20 percent of students have a language-based disability with dyslexia being the most common. This means most teachers have students with dyslexia in their classrooms.



Cracking the Code With Structured Literacy

Reading instruction programs, such as guided reading or balanced literacy, are not effective for students who struggle with reading, including those with dyslexia because they don't focus on decoding skills. However, Structured Literacy helps students learn to decode words in a systematic, explicit, and cumulative way. Not only is Structured Literacy effective for students with dyslexia, but research has also found it is effective for **all** students.

Key Components of Structured Literacy

LITERACY COMPONENT	THE SCIENCE OF READING SAYS
Sound-Symbol Association Instruction that matches sounds to letters or groups of letters	Proficient reading comprehension relies on automatic associations of sounds and letters. Repeated exposure to letter patterns when reading and spelling words builds letter patterns and words in memory and develops accurate decoding and spelling skills.
Phonology The sound system of language is known as phonology	Phonological and phonemic awareness are necessary components in learning to read and are predictive of reading success.
Morphology The study of morphemes, or meaningful units of words, is known as morphology	Knowledge of morphemes facilitates decoding and provides a springboard for vocabulary development. Morphology bridges the gap between alphabetic reading (i.e., word-level reading) and comprehension.
Semantics The meanings of words and the relationships of words are referred to as semantics	Students develop meaning of text through understanding parts of speech, how words are used in sentences, and the mechanics of language.
Syllable Instruction The understanding and teaching of the rules that apply to words that have more than one syllable	Understanding syllables helps students decode text faster and more fluently, as well as develop correct pronunciation of words.
Syntax Syntax is the system of rules governing permissible word order in sentences	Because the primary goals of reading and writing are determining and communicating meaning, it is important for students to understand the meanings or shades of meanings of words.

Teaching Strategies for Structured Literacy

1 SYSTEMATIC AND CUMULATIVE

High-quality, science of reading-based learning materials follow a scope and sequence that is a progression of easier-to-more-difficult language concepts and structures. Each new step is based on concepts previously learned.

2 EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

All instruction should directly teach all concepts with continuous student-teacher interaction. It is not assumed students will naturally develop an understanding of these concepts on their own.

3 DIAGNOSTIC TEACHING

The teacher uses diagnostic assessments for individualized instruction. Both formal and informal assessments are used for screening, progress monitoring, and educational diagnostics throughout instruction.

Benefits of Structured Literacy for Students With Dyslexia

- ➜ Improved decoding skills
- ➜ Enhanced reading comprehension
- ➜ Confidence and self-esteem

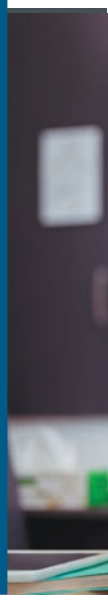


LISTEN TO THE EDVIEW360 PODCAST

The Power of Print: Inspiring Classroom Discussion and Motivation

Dr. Louisa Moats shares her thoughts about digital fatigue, the power of print, in what ways teachers and students should be trusted to select what they read both inside and outside of the classroom, and more.

LISTEN NOW ➜



Step by Step: Intervention Solutions for Students With Dyslexia

The following programs align with the principles of Structured Literacy and will support all struggling readers, including those with dyslexia.



Voyager PASSPORT

Grades K–5

Voyager Passport® is a research-proven reading intervention that accelerates student literacy achievement by targeting critical skills and providing strategies learners need to become fluent, on-level readers. Through a blended, teacher-led format, students receive explicit and systematic instruction in the five essential components of reading, plus language and writing. This intervention can complement any core reading program to accelerate students to reading success

LANGUAGE! Live®

Grades 5–12

LANGUAGE! Live® is a comprehensive literacy intervention that practically applies research about literacy and adolescent learning within a systematic and effective program. By using a blended approach, *LANGUAGE! Live* instruction simultaneously reinforces the literacy foundations students need while strategically engaging students with authentic text to accelerate them to grade-level proficiency.

REWARDS®

Grades 4–12

The *REWARDS*® suite is a powerful, research-validated, specialized reading intervention program for students who struggle reading long, multisyllabic words and comprehending content-area text. With explicit, teacher-led instruction, this intervention gives students new skills to become successful readers.



Step Up to Writing® Fourth Edition

Grades K–12

Step Up to Writing® is a comprehensive program of multisensory writing strategies that develop all students' ability to create thoughtful, well-written compositions. The solution's explicit and systematic approach to teaching writing is designed to provide clear strategies, methods, and supports for increased writing success.

acadience reading k–6

Grades K–6

Acadience® *Reading K–6* is a universal screening and progress-monitoring assessment solution that measures the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. This solution helps students who need additional support and uncovers which early literacy skills to target for additional instruction.

acadience ran

Grades K–1

Acadience® *Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN)* is a brief assessment to screen students for reading difficulties such as dyslexia. *RAN* measures are brief and individually administered in kindergarten and first grade. As an additional indicator of risk, *RAN* is a helpful tool for educators.

Students With Dyslexia Can Learn to Read Successfully

All reading programs are not the same. The science of reading has proven the importance of understanding phonics and phonemic awareness as fundamental foundational reading skills. And research has shown that Structured Literacy programs, based on the science of reading, are particularly effective for students with dyslexia.

By making informed decisions about supporting struggling readers, educators and parents can ensure all students, including those with dyslexia, have the opportunity to become skilled and confident readers and become successful in school, life, and career.

voyagersopris.com/dyslexia

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