



Ta'limi Board (KZN)

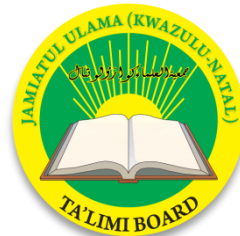
Isipingo Beach, South Africa



031 912 2172



info@talimiboardkzn.org



TEACHING A DYSLEXIC CHILD

Assalaamu alaykum warahmatullahi wabarakaatuhu

Respected Moulana

My six-year-old son has been diagnosed with dyslexia. He has difficulty reading, spelling and writing. He goes to school in the morning and attends the afternoon maktab as well. He is really finding difficulty recognising the Arabic alphabets. I think the Apas are trying their best to teach him but I'm not sure if they are equipped enough to handle children of this nature. I think my son has the ability to memorise quickly but cannot recognise the letters, dots and harkats (fatha, dhamma and kasra). In school also he cannot differentiate between d and b, between p and q. Does the Ta'limi Board have any teaching aids or advice to help him and his Apa with these challenges?

Since learning to read the Quraan-e-Majeed is of utmost importance in our Deen, therefore my concern.

Was Salaam

Answer:

JazakAllah for your query. May Allah Ta'ala bless your child with the ability to recite the Qur-aan Shareef correctly with tajweed and bless him with a deep passion for the Kalaam of Allah Ta'ala. Aameen.

Children with dyslexia have a specific problem with regards to recognising words and their sounds. It's not a behavioral or discipline issue. Many children have this problem, but with a little extra attention and fervent dua to Allah Ta'ala, one can overcome this problem. Please try and apply the following advices and it will be of great help to you insha Allah.

Spiritual Recommendations

1. Read two rakaats Salaah daily and make special dua for him. Tell his Apa to also make dua for him. Remember that everything is in the hands of Allah Ta'ala and overnight Allah Ta'ala can open up his heart and tongue.
2. Give some sadaqah daily on his behalf even if it is only 1 or 2 Rands, but do it daily. Sadaqah has the power to remove difficulties and calamities.
3. Take him to some pious Aalim, Allah Wala to make dua for him. There are many children who, through the barkat of the duas of some pious person were cured.
4. Start every lesson with Istighfaar, Durood Shareef and the following two duas;

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي ۖ وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي ۖ وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّنْ لِّسَانِي ۖ يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

O My Rabb! Open up for me my heart and make my matter easy for me and open up the knot in my tongue so that they can understand my speech.

رَبِّ يَسِّرْ وَلَا تُعَسِّرْ وَتَمِّمْ بِالْخَيْرِ وَبِكَ نَسْتَعِينُ يَا فَتَّاحُ

O My Rabb! Make it easy for me and do not make it difficult for me and complete it with goodness and to you do we seek help, O The Conqueror

Method of teaching a dyslexic child

Remember that you need lots of patience and time to teach dyslexic children.

Take note of the following points when teaching him;

- One on one teaching will be required. It's difficult to get results teaching him with the whole class.
- Use BIG FONTS rather than the normal kitaab.
- Use audio visual aids rather than strictly teaching from the text book. (see the Ta'limi Board website for audios)
- Use sensory aids like plasticine, colouring, flash cards, etc.
- Ensure that the child looks into the Qur-aan Shareef, points with his Shahaadat finger and reads LOUDLY.
- Be very patient, Don't rush! Take one letter at a time.
- Give less sabak.
- Use the phonetic system for such children as opposed to the spelling system.
- Remember that repetition is key.
- Take breaks when it becomes frustrating for the teacher or the learner.
- Try using a different time like after Fajar to teach him.
- Use different colour highlighters to mark the Harkats / Letters, etc.
- Reward him with something that will motivate him to learn.

Conclusion

Remember that emotional support for a dyslexic child is very important. They tend to get frustrated when they can't keep up with the rest of the class. Treat them as normal children, otherwise, they will start misbehaving and disrupt the entire class. Remember that a dyslexic child is different from an ADHD child and needs to be taught differently.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us all the love of the Qur-aan Shareef and accept us all for the khidmat of Deen. Aameen.