



# SNIDER THERAPY CENTERS, INC.

But be transformed by the renewing of your mind... Romans 12:2

## Special Points of Interest

- Dyslexia
- Neuro-Integrative Therapy
- Sensory dysfunctions

## Patient Population

The majority of Snider Therapy Centers' patients are children who have **Learning-related Visual Disorders**, such as tracking, eye teaming, reversals, and accommodation issues.

Another large segment is individuals who have been diagnosed with **Autism Spectrum Disorder**.

We also treat adults, as well as children, with **Traumatic Brain Injuries** (i.e. Due to concussions, motor vehicle accidents, brain surgery, stroke, and epilepsy).



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## Is Dyslexia Really Untreatable?

*Dr. Sharon Snider*

Dyslexia, from the Greek meaning 'difficulty with words', is the most common and well-known of learning disabilities. Symptoms generally involve difficulty with reading, writing, spelling, and/or math for no apparent reason. Individuals with dyslexia are frequently told that there is no cure for this condition, so various interventions are recommended in an attempt to improve skills in these areas.

The phrase 'no apparent reason' is key. In my opinion, the reason the root cause for most cases of dyslexia is not discovered is because thorough and appropriate testing is not being conducted.

Many individuals with dyslexia suffer with deficits in two or more areas of neuro-integrative processing, which is the ability to successfully integrate messages in the brain from the various senses.

As an example, it has been known for years that many dyslexics have visual skills problems. While most dyslexics are able to see 20/20, the two eyes may be unable to work together as a team, or maintain focus, or even track from letter to letter. Symptoms may include the appearance of words moving on the page, blurred vision, double vision, watery eyes, eyestrain, loss of place, and/or a general dislike of reading. Some will cover or close an eye. Some will appear to have attention deficits (ADD). Some will simply give up.

The good news: visual skills problems are correctable with appropriately administered Neuro-Integrative Therapy (NIT). Appropriate NIT would include vision therapy, optometric phototherapy, lenses, and/or prisms.

Auditory processing dysfunctions are also associated with dyslexia. Many, as children, had a history of ear infections, delayed or impaired speech, impaired hearing, and/or noise sensitivities. If an individual's hearing is disorganized due to developmental delays, toxins, or injury, that person will have difficulty making sense of what is heard or spoken. This may impair the ability to sound out words printed on a page. Speech may be unclear. Hearing may be painful (i.e. covering ears at a party or church). Many experience anxiety and even depression. (Continued on page 2)



# SUCCESS STORIES

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## "Homework completed"

### Ethan, age 13

Since beginning Sensory Learning Sessions, Ethan did not do well with looking up answers in his books. Homework was a struggle every single day. As of right now his is not in as much need for help and he has most if not all of his homework completed before he gets home. His first progress report came in and all grades were really good (except 2), but we will work hard to get those where they need to be. I'm looking forward to seeing more progress from him as time goes on. Thank you for all that y'all have done.

## "Engaged in Conversation"

### Charli, age 9

Charli seems to be more aware of her surroundings. She tends to notice more signs and reading names of businesses as we drive along. She is speaking out more and in complete sentences. She is engaged in conversation and more attentive to what is being said, and responding correctly more often. She has also started singing more.

(Dyslexia cont.)

The good news: auditory processing problems respond beautifully to appropriately administered auditory stimulation programs – another branch of Neuro-Integrative Therapy.

Many with dyslexia have a vestibular dysfunction which negatively impacts balance. The vestibular system is the first sensory system to develop and relays information to the brain as to the relationship of the head to the body. If impaired, an individual may be afraid to ride an escalator or a bicycle, may not want to be laid back to have hair washed, or may not like to spin. Others may be hyposensitive and crave spinning.

Again, good news: neuro-integrative therapies exist to remediate vestibular hyper and hypo-sensitivities.

While this list of sensory dysfunctions is not exhaustive, the point to be made is that with thorough testing, the underlying problem(s) manifesting as dyslexia can be determined.

And the best news: In the vast majority of cases, individuals do not have to live with dyslexia for the rest of their lives **as these root causes can be successfully treated with Neuro-Integrative Therapy.**

## "Joel's world has opened up "

### Joel, age 10

We sought evaluation at Snider Therapy Centers as a "first stop" to find help for emotional issues—to rule out physical emotional triggers. Joel had progressively struggled for a couple of years with anxious meltdowns. There were multiple triggers to frustration, one of which was school work. Initial testing revealed he had problems with tunnel vision, convergence and divergence, eye teaming, letter reversals, and several other abnormal parameters.

When therapy first began, Joel was easily frustrated with home exercises and would melt down simply reading a Near Far Hart Chart across a room. Now, after diligent and consistent work, he has the ability to work independently on home therapy exercises for 20-30 minutes without complaint. Other improvements include:

1. Does not get lost reading piano music
2. Raised grade reading level
3. Does not usually meltdown over school work

Additionally, Joel's world has opened up. He has become very observant to detail all around and his mechanical creativity has skyrocketed since beginning vision therapy. We are very grateful for this opportunity.

## "He is calmer"

### Easton, age 4

- He is calmer
- No longer carries a shirt around
- Vocabulary has expanded greatly
- Gives more detail when speaking to others
- Wakes up dry 4-5 days out of the week (wet the bed every night before)
- Is swimming in the pool (would not get in before)
- Will buckle self in car seat ( would not even try before)
- Has more confidence
- Enjoys going to school (would cry or say he didn't like going before)
- Brushes his own hair (would pitch a fit if anyone touched, brushed, or rubbed his hair/head before)
- Plays with other children more (was a "loner" before)

## "He can focus for longer periods of time"

### Nathan, age 7

- Reading speed and comprehension has increased dramatically. He also enjoys reading now and his desire to read has increased.
- Nathan can focus for longer periods of time. He processes information and directions better.
- He has improved with extra-curricular activities.
- His grades have improved tremendously.
- This has also given him a better sense of self-esteem.

## "He gained 5 1/2 grade reading levels"

### Daniel, age 18

The most significant improvement we have seen is in his reading ability. During his last six months of treatment, he gained 5 1/2 grade reading levels. This led to having more desire to read and for longer periods.

Also, his handwriting has greatly improved. What used to be almost illegible has become very neat.

His confidence has strengthened because of these and other benefits he has received from Snider Therapy.

## "Heard and responded to me when he was busy with something else! "

### Jackson, age 12

We were searching and praying for something that would help Jackson with many issues; especially with explosive anger, self-control, and obedience. With so many people telling us it was a heart/parenting issue, we doubted any other answer. Snider came highly recommended and gave us hope. We started ASAP.

The first obvious result came 6 days into sensory therapy. Jackson actually heard and responded to me when he was busy with something else! This has only increased! He can now focus for much longer periods of time. He used to constantly make vocal/ physical (beating) noises. That has decreased dramatically! He obeys more in line with what I feel is typical 12 year old behavior. Rarely does he have explosive outburst about small inconsequential situations. We have a discipline plan in place and it works! He is so much happier and our house is much more peaceful. We are excited to see what this coming school year holds and how he responds academically.

We are so thankful to Kim in Huntsville and Lynn in Columbus. Jackson loved working with both of them so very much! And we are especially thankful for the Sniders. They have given us hope for Jackson's future!

### *Maria, 20*

Maria works hard focusing through therapeutic prism lenses.



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Check out our website for  
information on our offered  
therapies which include:

- Phototherapy
- The Sensory Learning Program
- Yoked prism lenses
- Vision therapy
- Johansen Individualized Auditory Stimulation Program (JIAS)
- Integrated Listening Systems (iLs)

We are offering a limited number of free perceptual screenings this summer (\$39 value). Please call the office closest to you and schedule one today. Early detection can save years of struggling.

## "He is focusing better"

### Peyton, age 12

Peyton began his journey at Snider's when we were at our wits end. He was struggling academically, socially, and with focusing in school. We spent hours each night on homework with him not gaining much from it. In June 2015, we started Sensory Therapy. We then moved on to Vision Therapy and eventually two rounds of iLs. Peyton has had the most improvement in his reading and spelling abilities. He could barely read or spell when we started and now he is at least at a solid 4th grade level. He is focusing better and is more independent with daily tasks. He is also more mature in his interactions and seems to be more aware of appropriate behavior. Peyton also notices his surroundings more. Mrs. Rita and the entire staff have been such a blessing to all of us. They treat us as their own and have even offered their prayer in times of need.

