Informative Speech Outline

General Purpose: To Inform
Specific Purpose: At the end of my speech, my audience will understand the symptoms, causes, and ways to help people with dyslexia.

Introduction: (example- write the word "laugh" on the board) (pause) This is how normal people see and spell this word, however to a person that is dyslexic, is might appear to them like this (switch a & u to form luagh), or even like this (write luahg). According to an October 2011 article in The Age newspaper by journalist, Elisabeth Tarica, every 2 in 3 school children have dyslexia. As it is pretty likely that you will encounter a co-worker, friend, or even have a child with dyslexia someday, today I want to take a few minutes to share with you some of the symptoms and causes of dyslexia, as well as some tips on how to help people with the disorder.

Transition: The first step to helping someone with dyslexia is being able to recognize the symptoms a person is showing.

Main Point 1: The symptoms of dyslexia are usually pretty easy to spot, although it is usually easier to diagnose in school-aged kids. According to both the ADAM Medical Encyclopedia and the Dyslexia Action group, symptoms include:

1. Lower reading level/ slow reading rate.
2. Difficulty interpreting meaning in reading – hard time sequencing problems/ instructions
3. "bad" behavior, acting out caused by frustration. – The number of boys treated for dyslexia is three times that of girls treated for the disorder.

Transition: Now that you know what symptoms to look out for, it is often helpful to know what causes dyslexia when trying to help a person live with it.

Main Point 2: The causes of dyslexia are mostly internal factors, instead of external factors that cause diseases.

1. Heredity
2. As stated in the April 2009 edition of the Children Now magazine, dyslexia is characterized by Brain processing – doesn't translate 'symbols'
3. No help, feeling helpless, causes a person with dyslexia to be less likely to overcome.

Transition: As you can see, the causes of this disorder are usually not something anyone can prevent. This being said, it is well known that even with treatments people are often stuck with dyslexia all their life. Because of this many feel helpless and trapped, however with your support you may make someone learn to live effectively with their disorder.

Main Point 3: Treatments

1. Specialized learning – more attention from teachers/ adults to work around disadvantage
2. According to Jane Gallagher of the Dyslexia Action group in an April 2011 interview, Technology as a learning tool – different fonts appear easier to students
3. Biggest thing you can give is encouragement, remember that it is a disorder, not a disability.

Transition: Now you know the effects, causes, and treatments of dyslexia, and can be an informed and helpful person if you ever run into a person with the disorder.

Conclusion: Now you know the many symptoms, as well as causes associated with this disorder. With so many children being diagnosed with dyslexia, and numerous adults discovering that they have had the disorder all their lives, it is a good skill to have in both the work world, and even your own household sphere, to be able to recognize the symptoms and provide support. Having my own brother with the disorder, I can tell you that this information has helped me to understand him in better ways than before, and will at least personally be put to use. Keeping this in mind, I hope all of you are leaving here today with the ability to help a dyslexic person in your life.

Bibliography

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