A Non-Exhaustive Age-Based List of Strengths That Are Often Present, At Varying Degrees, Within an Individual Identified with Dyslexia

USING STRENGTHS TO FOSTER RESILIENCE

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- Curiosity
- A great imagination
- The ability to figure things out
- Eager embrace of new ideas
- Getting the gist of things
- A good understanding of new concepts
- Surprising maturity
- A larger vocabulary for the age group
- Enjoyment in solving puzzles
- Talent at building models
- Excellent comprehension of stories read or told to him

2nd and up

• Excellent thinking skills: conceptualization, reasoning, imagination, abstraction

• Learning that is accomplished best through meaning rather than rote memorization

- Ability to get the "big picture"
- A high level of understanding of what is read to him

• The ability to read and to understand at a high level overlearned (that is, highly practiced) words in a special area of interest; for example, if his hobby is restoring cars, he may be able to read auto mechanic magazines

• Improvement as an area of interest becomes more specialized and focused, when he develops a miniature vocabulary that he can read.

• A surprisingly sophisticated listening vocabulary

• Excellence in areas not dependent on reading, such as math, computers, and visual arts, or excellence in more conceptual (versus factoid-driven) subjects, such as philosophy, biology, social studies, neuroscience, and creative writing.

Young Adults & Adults

- The maintenance of strengths noted in the school-age period
- A high learning capability

• A noticeable improvement when given additional time on multiple-choice examinations

• Noticeable excellence when focused on a highly specialized area, such as medicine, law, public policy, finance, architecture, or basic science

- Excellence in writing if content and not spelling are important
- A noticeable articulateness in the expression of ideas and feelings
- · Exceptional empathy and warmth, and feeling for others
- Success in areas not dependent on rote memory
- A talent for high-level conceptualization and the ability to come up with original insights
- Big-picture thinking
- Inclination to think outside of the box
- A noticeable resilience and ability to adapt.

"In order to succeed, people need a sense of self-efficacy, to struggle together with resilience to meet the inevitable obstacles and inequities of life." - Albert Bandura



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