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Education

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Davis Dyslexia Correction Program info session

Paddy Carson, a facilitator for the program, presents info Wed night

By Aspen Gainer/EDMONTON EXAMINER
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If you or anyone you know has had trouble reading and trouble in school, there is an information session you might want to attend on May 23.

Paddy Carson, the only Davis Dyslexia facilitator in Edmonton, will speak about dyslexia and how to correct it.

"I've done it as a parent of a child whose done the program, as an adult dyslexic who's doing the correction program and now as a facilitator, so I've sat in all three places," says Carson.

Carson will talk about the Davis Dyslexia Correction Program, a program developed by Ronald Davis, a man who also suffers from dyslexia.

Davis was an engineer but at 38 he only had a very basic level of literacy and could barely read.

What the Davis program does is it gives us the tools to translate the pictures to the words. —Paddy Carson

However, he could work very well with art and pictures. He decided that instead of being deficient, he must just have a different way of thinking.

From his approach to dyslexia as not a deficiency but a difference, Davis created a program that is positive, encouraging and successfully translates language into a form that dyslexics can understand.

"What the Davis program does is it gives us the tools to translate the pictures to the words," says Carson.

Dyslexic people are visual thinkers, meaning they think in pictures. The thought patterns are very literal and so words that don't have a picture form don't have meaning to dyslexics.

For instance, Patti says think of a dog. You probably see a dog in your mind. Then think of an ice cream cone. Again, you probably see a picture in your head.

Now, picture 'because.' But you can't. There is no picture that conveys the meaning of the word. Most people don't find this a problem because they think in what is known as sound-based conceptual thinking, which just means that most often you read a word and understand it's meaning, whether or not it is accompanied by a picture.

Part of the correction program uses clay to add a visual component to a word

"We use clay to look at the three parts of the word which is how it's spelled, how it's said and what it means," says Carson. "Now it's three-dimensional. I own it, it's my visual interpretation of what the definition is."

Paddy Carson's information session happens May 23 at 7 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Alberta Association for Community Living (11728 Kingsway Avenue). You can also contact Carson at paddy@dyslexiagifted.com or 780-489-6225. For more information, visit dyslexiagifted.com.



PHOTO SUPPLIED Caleb, a client of Paddy Carson, uses clay to help him associate words with their meaning as part of the Davis Dyslexic Correction Program.

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