



# Getting Started Checklist

# Checklist

## Tasks To Get Completed by a Medical Professional

- ☐ 1. Full Educational Psychological Evaluation by a Neuropsychologist, Child Psychologist, or Developmental Pediatrician.
- ☐ 2. Auditory Processing Disorder Evaluation (Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT)
- ☐ 3. Speech-Language Pathologist (testing for Language Processing Disorders).
- ☐ 4. Occupational Therapist- (Testing for handwriting and other age-appropriate skills)

## Tasks To Get Completed At Public School

- ☐ 1. Write a letter to Request an Evaluation for Special Education Services at public expense to your principal and Special Education Director services (If you already have a medical diagnosis of SLD/Dyslexia include the paperwork from the doctor.)
- ☐ 2. Sign written consent to start the evaluation (60 days under Federal Law) once you sign consent. If you don't get the consent forms within a week, send an email asking for them again. Document. Document. Document

## Other Tasks To Do:

- ☐ 1. Find your state's Department of Education and locate their Parent Rights and Safeguards.
- ☐ 2. Join Support groups on Facebook (Partners in Promise, Wright's Law, Decoding Dyslexia Military, Decoding Dyslexia (state and regional groups and pages)
- ☐ 3. Find your community support. The road in special education is long. You will need a support person outside of your family (Parent, Spouse, Friend).
- ☐ 4. Listen to the Sold a Story Podcast

# Notes

1 Full Educational Psychological Evaluation  
(testing for Dyslexia, Specific Learning Disability, ADHD, or other learning disabilities).

Tests to double-check are completed:

- CTOPP-2
- Taps4
- FiFER
- FAR
- Woodcock-Johnson
- WISC
- (TWS-5)

2. Auditory Processing Disorder Evaluation. APD often co-exists with Dyslexia. The intervention is similar. Tricare does cover APD testing and intervention.

3. Speech-Language Pathologist. Often, kids with dyslexia and ADHD also have Language Processing Disorders. Dyslexia is a language-based learning disorder.

4. Occupational Therapist- Deficits in motor skills and handwriting skills are often present in kids with dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and apraxia. Sometimes these deficits, especially in boys, are ignored as being messy or unmotivated.

# Follow Me On

# Social



Hilary Reese has been part of the military community as a Coast Guard spouse since 2000. She earned her BSBA in Finance from the University of Denver in 1999, obtained a graduate-level paralegal degree at the University of San Diego in 2000, and recently acquired a Special Education Law certificate from the University of San Diego (2023).

Hilary has lived in California, Georgia, and Hawaii as a Coast Guard family member. As a mother of a college student with severe dyslexia and other learning challenges, she dedicates her time to supporting military families facing similar difficulties related to dyslexia and reading.

Hilary volunteers for organizations like Partners in Promise, Decoding Dyslexia Military, Seal Kids, Exceptional Family Members of the Military, and Decoding Dyslexia Georgia.

Hilary is the creator of The Dyslexia Life, a platform that advocates for military children with dyslexia globally. She manages Facebook support groups "Middle Georgia Parent IEP 504 Support " and " DODEA Dyslexia Parent IEP 504 Support, offering advice and support to parents.

