

I am here today to talk to you about my experience with Dyslexia. Here's my story. **I have had a lot of problems where teachers or people didn't think I was smart** because I couldn't read or write in grade 1. I remember feeling shamed by the teacher for not being able to read simple words. **Luckily, my parents decided to get me tested for dyslexia** and they **put me in a special structured literacy program for me to learn how to read and write**. It helped me with my learning, taught me better ways to read and write and helped me to learn quicker. I am now in grade 7 and I still go to the program twice per week to help me with my school work and to remind me how to use my specific strategies and skills to read and write better.

Now I am meeting many kids who struggle with reading and writing, so I wonder if they also have dyslexia, and that's why they can't read and write. They have not been able to get the same **help** I get because it is **too expensive for their family to get assessments and tutoring**. Reading and writing is important for our lives as it can save lives for example: signs on the roads; reading ingredients in foods for people with allergies, etc.

Fun Fact: Did you know that in a classroom of 25 kids, on average 5 will have dyslexia.

I find it very upsetting that people can't learn to read and write just because they don't learn the same way, and yet in many ways may even be smarter than the average learner. **It doesn't make sense to me that the government will not invest in kids being able to learn**, so that they can get better jobs to improve British Columbia and their communities.

I have learned through spending time with other **people that have dyslexia**, that they think in many different ways and they could help the world in many ways because they **are often creative thinkers who think outside the box** just like me.

Fun Fact: Many big companies are now looking to hire people with Dyslexia because of how they think.

In BC we need to provide **more resources and funding** to individuals with dyslexia for assessments, access to structured literacy and ongoing support, so that they can have **better access to education, community and employment**.

Thank you for being here today to learn about the importance of supporting the 1 in 5 kids with dyslexia.