

UPSIDE-DOWN AND BACKWARDS

Objective

This activity is designed to simulate dyslexia, a common learning disability in which, for some people, words are perceived as upside-down or backwards.

Materials

- Set of directions “A” (included)
- Set of directions “B” (included)
- Pencils
- Paper
- Boxes of 8 crayons
- Gummed star stickers

Teacher Preparation

Make a copies of directions “A” and directions “B” for each student.

Activity

1. Pass out directions “A” to students. Explain to them that they are to read and follow the directions, writing their answers **with the opposite hand they usually write with.**
2. They will then complete a similar set of directions “B”, with no perceptual difficulty simulated, writing with their correct hand.

Discussion

Have them compare their experiences.

Explain to the students that people with learning disabilities are not mentally retarded. In fact, they are of normal and above average intelligence, but because of their special learning problems, they sometimes do not do well in school. Explain to them that people with learning disabilities are not slow to learn, but instead, must sometimes learn in ways that may seem different or unusual to us.

(Some famous people with learning disabilities: Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Greg Louganis, Bruce Jenner, Winston Churchill, Tom Cruise.)

* Adapted from Special Pastoral Ministries, Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, 1982, *Welcome to My World*

LEARNING DISABILITY ACTIVITY: DIRECTIONS "A"

EMIT FLESRUOY

etirW ruoy srewsna no rehtona teeHS of repap gnisu eht dnah uoy t'nod yllausu esu.

1. ekaM eht sredmun 1 ot 01 sbrawkcad.
2. ward evif selcric bna roloc eno ber, eno wolley, bna eerht nword.
3. tuP a rats ni hcae renroc fo ruoy repap.
4. dloF ruoy repap ni flah dna etirw ruoy eman dna sserdda.
5. eulG eerht srats erofeb ruoy eman.
6. uoY era dehsinif won. knihT tuoba woh uoy tlef sa uoy erew gniod siht.

LEARNING DISABILITY ACTIVITY: DIRECTIONS “B”

TIME YOURSELF

Write your name at the bottom of your paper.

1. Draw five circles. Color one blue, one yellow and two green.
2. Draw a square in each corner of your paper.
3. Write the numbers 1 to 10.
4. Glue three stars after your name.
5. Fold your paper in half.
6. You are now finished. Think about how you felt as you were doing this.