

Dyslexic Advantage Movie Kit

Year of Release: 2025

Length: [insert final film length here]

Director: Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide



Themes: Neurodiversity, Dyslexia, Cognitive Strengths, Self-Acceptance, Innovation

Context

Dyslexic Advantage is a documentary film that explores the experiences, challenges, and remarkable strengths of individuals with dyslexia. The film highlights the journeys of students, artists, scientists, and professionals, as well as the world-leading researchers who have reshaped our understanding of dyslexia from a learning “disability” to a powerful brain difference with unique advantages. Through personal stories and expert insights, the film encourages viewers to appreciate the many ways dyslexic people contribute to society—often by thinking outside the box.

Important Vocabulary, Places, and People

Dyslexia:

A brain-based processing difference that affects reading, spelling, and rote learning, but is also connected with strengths in areas like creativity, pattern recognition, spatial reasoning, and innovation.

Neurodiversity:

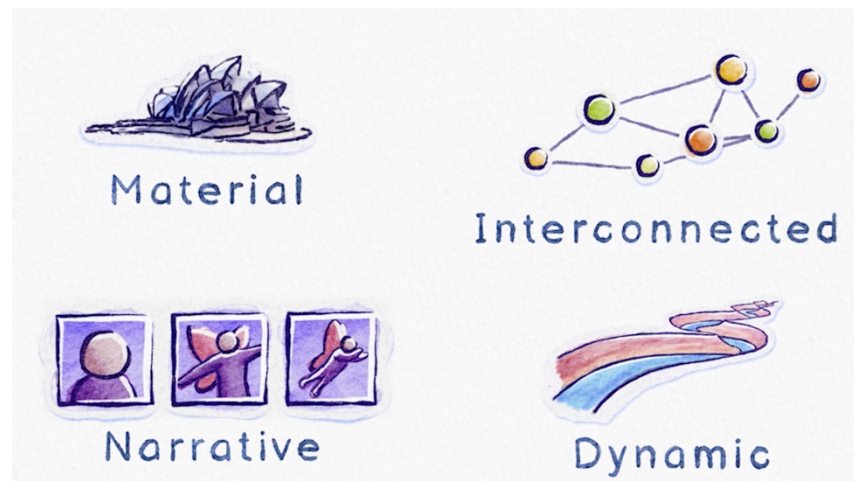
The idea that differences in people’s brain structures, as can be found in dyslexia or ADHD are part of normal human differences and not diseases.

Automaticity:

Being able to do a task (like reading or spelling) quickly and without thinking about each step. For example, many people who ride bikes, can ride without having to consciously think about every action they are taking when they ride.

MIND Strengths:

A framework introduced by Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide describing four common areas of dyslexic talent. The acronym MIND stands for:



- **M (Material/3D Reasoning):** Thinking or reasoning through physical materials
- **I (Interconnected Reasoning):** Seeing how ideas or different phenomena may be related or fit together
- **N (Narrative Reasoning):** Remembering and thinking in stories
- **D (Dynamic Reasoning):** Imagining how things will change under changing conditions or how processes may change over time.



Dr. Brock and Dr. Fernette Eide:

Doctors and learning specialist studying dyslexia through the lifespan – recognizing strengths as well as challenges.

Krista Weltner:

An artist and animator who shares how dyslexia has shaped her creative path.

Bob Ballard:

An ocean explorer, best known for discovering the Titanic, who credits his dyslexic thinking for his success in solving complex problems.

Jack Laws:

A naturalist and author who uses dyslexic strengths in observation and visual thinking.

Dr. Chris Ford:

A physician who uses strengths in spatial and pattern reasoning in his medical practice.

Dyslexic Advantage Community:

A global network of individuals, families, and educators supporting a strengths-based perspective on dyslexia. For more information, visit DyslexicAdvantage.org

Background

Dyslexia affects up to 20% of the population and is the most common cause of reading, writing, and spelling difficulties. Historically, people with dyslexia have been misunderstood and often faced stigma, being labeled as “slow” or “unmotivated.” However, scientific advances in neuroscience and education have shown that dyslexia is not a sign of low intelligence or laziness, but a different brain wiring.

Dyslexic processing differences can make some tasks—like decoding words or memorizing facts—more difficult. Yet, these same differences are linked to unique cognitive strengths. Many successful artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and scientists are dyslexic. The film challenges the deficit-based view of dyslexia and reveals how, when supported, dyslexic individuals can thrive and make extraordinary contributions.

Clips in the film highlight:

- The MIND strengths and how they appear in real lives
- Role models who turned challenges into opportunities
- The importance of understanding, support, and self-acceptance

For more about dyslexia and dyslexia-associated strengths, sign up for the free Dyslexic Advantage newsletter at DyslexicAdvantage.org, support the community becoming a Premium subscriber and take the free Neurolearning MIND strengths screener at Neurolearning.com

Discussion Questions

1. **How does the film change your understanding of dyslexia?**
2. **What are some of the strengths and talents discussed in the film that are connected to dyslexia?**
3. **What challenges do people with dyslexia face in school and in life? How did the people in the film cope with or overcome these challenges?**
4. **Why is it important to recognize both the difficulties and the strengths of dyslexia?**
5. **Many people in the film talked about finding their own way to learn or solve problems. Can you think of a time when you did something differently—and it worked?**
6. **Who are some role models in the film, and what did you learn from their stories?**
7. **The film talks about “neurodiversity.” What does this term mean to you, and why is it important for understanding differences in learning and thinking?**
8. **How can you use what you learned from the film to support yourself or others with dyslexia?**

The People of Dyslexic Advantage

- **Dr. Brock and Dr. Fernette Eide:** Researchers, authors, and leaders of the Dyslexic Advantage movement.
- **Krista Weltner:** Artist and animator, shares her journey of self-acceptance and using dyslexia as a creative strength.
- **Bob Ballard:** Ocean explorer, uses pattern recognition and spatial reasoning to make discoveries.

- **Jack Laws:** Author/naturalist, shows how dyslexic strengths help in scientific observation and drawing.
- **Dr. Chris Ford:** Physician, uses his ability to think in 3D and see patterns in his medical work.

Additional Background (for educators or advanced learners)

- **History of Dyslexia:** For much of history, people who struggled with reading were often misunderstood. The term “dyslexia” was coined in the late 1800s, but only recently has science begun to reveal the complexity—and advantages—of the dyslexic brain.
 - **MIND Strengths Framework:** Developed by the Eides, this framework helps people recognize the unique talents many dyslexic individuals possess.
 - **Changing the Narrative:** Dyslexic Advantage and its community are working to replace old stereotypes with a balanced, hopeful, and evidence-based view.
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