



RAISING DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Host a Dyslexia Simulation event

This can be a powerful way to share the dyslexia experience with others. Dyslexia Simulation kits are designed to help individuals gain a better understanding of (and empathy for) those children and adults who struggle with dyslexia.

Where: School, PTA Meeting, Library, Community Center, College Classroom, Parent Support Group meeting, Conference Workshop or Church.

(Note: If you partner with a school district or PTA, you can probably hold your event at a school site with no or minimal cost to cover custodian.)

Target Audience: School Staff, Educators, Parents, Family Members, Teaching Credential Candidates, Children, Educational Psychologists, Other Professionals and Community Members.

How: Kits can be purchased through:

Dyslexia Training Institute

<http://www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org/simulation-kit.html>

Northern CA Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (NCBIDA)

<http://dyslexia-ncbida.org/simulations-kit/>

Check with your DDCA Regional Leader or DDCA Support Group Leader to see if they already have a dyslexia simulation kit to loan. If you don't know who your regional leader is contact, the [DDCA Regional Leaders Manager](#).

If you are in the SF Bay Area, NCBIDA does offer a few free Dyslexia Simulations a year. Contact them at office@dyslexia-ncbida.org to see if you may qualify for a free dyslexia simulation.

If you are in the San Diego area, Dyslexia Training Institute offers 2 free simulations a year. Contact them at dyslexiaspec@gmail.com.



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Host a Dyslexia Book Display

This is a great way to encourage others to read up on dyslexia. It also provides parents with helpful books on explaining dyslexia to a child. This is a great venue to garner free advertising about local DDCA Parent Support groups and the DDCA grassroots movement. Check out this [sample bookstore display](#) for inspiration.

Where: Local Libraries, School Libraries and Bookstores.

Target Audience: Community Members, School Staff, Educators, Parents, Family Members, and Children

How: Download the [DDCA Suggested Book list](#) to bring with you and contact your local library, school, or bookstore and ask if they would be interested in hosting a visual display to increase dyslexia awareness. Discuss why raising dyslexia awareness is important to you and the community. Inquire about the type and size of space available. Offer to select books for display.

Consider contacting authors to see if there is interest in a book signing event.

Bookmarks listing a sample of books and online resources on dyslexia can be helpful give-away. Sometimes libraries are happy to print bookmarks to promote programs.

Ask if a poster with dyslexia facts can be created or a [DDCA poster](#) and a [DDCA flyer](#) can be made available.

Another creative idea is the special [rotating screen saver](#) that the Contra Costa County Libraries has implemented for October 2017.

Consider including your local International Dyslexia Association (IDA) branch as well. Find your closest IDA branch [HERE](#).



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Host a Dyslexia Movie Event

This is a great social event and a way to share some of the documentaries available on dyslexia. It can serve as a good way to generate Q&A discussion at the end of the movie.

Where: Local Libraries, Schools, PTA events, DDCA Parent Support Groups and Community Centers

(Note: If you partner with school district or PTA, you can probably hold your event at a school site with no or minimal cost to cover custodian charges.)

Target Audience: Community Members, School Staff, Educators, Parents, Family Members, and Children

How: Refer to the DDCA Suggested Movie list below when you contact your local library, school, PTA or bookstore regarding their interest in hosting a movie event to increase dyslexia awareness. Discuss why raising dyslexia awareness is important to you and the community. Inquire about the type and size of space available. Offer to help advertise for the event through the DDCA network.

Consider contacting the director of the film to see if there is interest in attending the event. Have a [DDCA flyer](#) available at the event. Consider including your local IDA branch and School District Administrators to participate in audience Q&A.

Films on Dyslexia:

Dislecksia – The Movie | www.dislecksia.themovie.com

Embracing Dyslexia | www.embracingdyslexia.com (free online video)

Journey into Dyslexia | www.hbo.com/documentaries/journey-into-dyslexia

The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia | www.thebigpicturemovie.com

(Check with movie terms/policy regarding viewing rights.)



RAISING DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Contact your State or U.S. Legislator

Share your family's story with your CA and U.S. Legislator and encourage them to support DDCA's goals and initiatives. Encourage your U.S. Representative to join the [Bipartisan Congressional Dyslexia Caucus](#).

How: Find your State and Federal Legislators:

Your State Legislators:

http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html

Your U.S. Representative:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Your U.S. Senator:

<http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

Write down your family's story. Click [HERE](#) for tips! Send a letter and/or email to your local CA legislators, share your personal story and ask them to support [our goals](#).

A Sample letter for writing your family story can be found [HERE](#).

Share this information with 3 others and ask that they get involved in this movement also!



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!

Speak Up!

Speak at your school board or Special Education CAC meeting:

Address the School Board and/or CAC meeting during public comment period – usually limited to 3 minutes, but check their published practice.

How: Fill out a speaker card to speak during the general public comment part of the meeting. Or if dyslexia is on the agenda in some form, note that you want to speak to that item.

Suggestions that might help you get started or to include in your comments:

- Watch videos of other DDCA parents/guardians who have given public comment speeches.
- Consider using [a template](#) to start writing your own speech.
- Share the [CA Dyslexia Guidelines](#) that were published on August 14, 2017 and revised on September 14, 2017, as well as the [CDE webpage](#) dedicated to this effort.
- DDCA has our own [Summary of the California Dyslexia Guidelines 2-page flyer](#) that would be helpful to distribute when you speak.
- Share the [CA PTA Dyslexia Resolution](#) that was adopted on May 7, 2016.
- Share the [U.S. Department of Education's](#) guidance dated October 23, 2015 on using the terms dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia.
- Share [Assembly Bill 1369](#) (Frazier - D) that was signed into law on October 8, 2015

Share your thoughts with CA Department of Education (CDE):

The Guidelines were released and published online in August 2017. CDE maintains a webpage related to the development of the guidelines and still has an email address, dyslexia@cde.ca.gov for public comment and questions related to the guidelines.

This is your opportunity to share your comments/questions about dyslexia and the guidelines with the CDE.