October 2022: The Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba are excited to announce the completion of our Parent Toolkit. The following provides an overview of the content of this comprehensive resource for parents. We are in the process of organizing the first Parent Toolkit Workshop for early 2023. Stay tuned for registration details. We can't wait to share this resource with you!



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# WELCOME

### Let's begin our journey together

The purpose of this Parent Toolkit, developed by The Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba, is to assist you as parents, caregivers and families to navigate the school system, and advocate for your children with dyslexia. We know that parents in the dyslexia community have felt lost, confused, frustrated and uncertain as to how to best support their children to reach their full academic potential.

We have solicited the input and expertise of a broad range of people to put this Toolkit together, including parents/caregivers, dyslexia tutors, reading clinicians, resource teachers, dyslexia specialists, and registered psychologists. Our collective experience and guidance forms the foundation of the Toolkit.

We have also referred to best practices and guidance from other dyslexia organizations, such as the International Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Canada, and others, while doing our best to ensure the Toolkit is relevant within the province of Manitoba's education framework. We accept that there is room for improvement – so please, take time to provide us your valuable feedback on the contents of the Toolkit by filling out the Feedback Form in Appendix N. An online fillable form is also available on our website at <a href="dyslexiachampions.org">dyslexiachampions.org</a>. This will help us continue to improve how the Toolkit serves the needs of all parents/caregivers who work hard to support their children.



#### About Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba

Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba was founded in 2011 as a result of a discernable gap in the recognition of dyslexia as a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and the resulting absence of recognition, diagnosis and support for parents/caregivers and students living with dyslexia. Our mission statement is to "Work together to champion the gifts and to support the needs of Manitobans with dyslexia."

Our association is comprised of parents, caregivers, students, teachers, resource professionals (including psychologists, audiologists, reading clinicians, as well as speech and language pathologists). We have held numerous conferences and workshops and have brought in trainers to instruct teachers in the classroomand tutors in the communities. Hundreds of families and educational professionals have attended these events. All were interested in sharing and obtaining information and guidance about how to effectively recognize and support individuals living with dyslexia.

This Toolkit is another step we've taken to meet this need and begin to fill that gap. You can read more about us at <u>dyslexiachampions.org</u>.

#### Dyslexia Champions of Manitoba

Celebrating the 8th year of our Mission to Work together to champion the gifts, and support the needs of Manitobans with Dyslexia.

- Email: dyslexia.champions@gmail.com
- Website: www.dyslexiachampions.org
- DCM OG Tutors

- Like Dyslexia Champions on <u>Facebook</u>
- Follow Dyslexia Champions on <u>Twitter</u>
- Follow Dyslexia Champions on <u>Instagram</u>

## Conclusion, Resources, Appendices and Partners



#### Conclusion

Our hope is that this Toolkit has helped shed light on the journey ahead for you and your child who is living and thriving with dyslexia. As some of our champions have shared in their stories (see Champions Stories at dyslexiachampions.org), dyslexia can also be a "super power" when it is properly managed. Many children with learning disabilities become more resilient and able to face life's challenges more effectively because they have learned strategies to adapt, to be open to new approaches, to draw on their strengths, and to become strong self-advocates.

In most cases, there is no reason these bright individuals cannot move right along with their friends and peers, toward a successful educational experience year after year.

Is not that the hope of every parent? We are honoured to be on this journey to help support that outcome.

If you have further questions or concerns contact us at: <a href="mailto:dyslexiachampions.org/contact.html">dyslexiachampions.org/contact.html</a>