



Promoting literacy through research, education, and advocacy.

Arizona Branch

Suggested Interview Questions to Ask a Potential Tutor/Therapist for your Child

IDA DISCLAIMER

The international Dyslexia Association supports efforts to provide individuals with dyslexia with appropriate instruction and to identify these individuals at an early age. The Association, however, does not endorse any specific program, speaker, product, or instructional material, noting that there are a number of such which present the critical components of instruction as defined by IDA.

The following question checklist was inspired by the list (page 300) in the book *Straight Talk About Reading* by Susan Hall and Louisa Moats*; a brilliant, helpful book for parents of students with reading difficulties.

1. Please describe your background and training. Questions might include the following:

What are the training requirements to become a proficient therapist? (Some language/reading therapies have certification requirements; others do not. Those that do not are not necessarily less effective; it just makes consumers need to ask more questions, such as the following: ***How were you trained, how long did it take, who did it, were you able to work with experienced therapists while you were first practicing the therapy? How long have you been doing it? What do you do if therapy is not progressing?***)

- 2. Do you specialize in children with dyslexia?** (If not, think twice about hiring them.)
- 3. Do you use an Orton-Gillingham system?** (If they don't know what that means, do NOT hire them.) Which one? Are you certified in that system? How long have you used it?
- 4. Do you spend any of the session helping the student with homework, or do you concentrate only on teaching reading and spelling?**
- 5. Will I be expected to work with my child at home between sessions?**
- 6. Will you interact with my child's school?**
- 7. How often will you provide feedback to me on my child's progress, and in what format?**
- 8. What is your hourly fee?**
- 9. What happens if my child has to miss a session?**
- 10. How many sessions per week do you recommend?** (Twice a week is MINIMUM for a dyslexic child.)
- 11. Would the parents of any of your students be willing to talk to me about your work with their students?** (Permission would have to be obtained first from the parents of students they are currently seeing.)
- 12. If I like what I hear from those parents, could we schedule a free consultation so that my child and I can meet you and see your office/workspace?**

*Used with permission. Based on information from *Straight Talk About Reading*, Copyright 1999. All rights reserved.