

Feedback from Learners

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Been teaching for 13 years and have never really understood, nor knew how to properly address students who need reading intervention.

The great thing about this course is that it seems to be strongly leaning towards looking at the data from scientific research which is to be highly commended. I am very happy that the topic of bilingualism is brought up in the course.

I am learning Support Teacher here in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I withdraw low ability students from their general education classroom in order to teach them in small groups and one-on-one. These students often struggle with reading and writing, and I find this course useful when working with them. It helps me understand the nature of their difficulties. It also provides me with useful strategies to implement within my lessons. I have incorporated what I have learned into my teaching practice, and I have already begun noticing a difference in my teaching style and my students' outcomes.

Just wanted to thank you for this opportunity. I live and teach on a small island, St. Lucia, in the Caribbean and having access to a course like this would not be possible. Thanking you for allowing me to see and understand the dyslexic child's mind and even any non-dyslexic child and the wide variations that our brains have for learning.

It would be haughty of me to assume that I helped bring them completely out of their learning difficulties but I can say that, while working in a remote village in Nepal the course really helped me provide actual informal assessments and the risk factor observations to the staff and administration of the school. This goes a long way where learning difficulties are shunned, ignored or classified incorrectly. It being the case that many students don't get access to specialists, giving the teachers direction from a metacognitive perspective really helps boost the children's confidence to continue trying to work through their difficulties.

Have learnt more from this course than surfing the net for many years.

I had a meeting with [my child's] school staff to discuss the results of her formal evaluation. At the meeting, a tester explained specific test items and her results. Thankfully, I understood all of what she said clearly and the intent of each test item because I took this course with two assessments. She is confirmed as dyslexic and immediately joined an intervention the next day. One of the staff told me that she is so impressed how I recognized her symptoms very early and even her kindergarten and 1st grade teachers did not notice.

Thank you for creating this course and sharing your knowledge with all of us. I hope that I will be able to put all that I've learned into helping others learn a new language in professional and personalised manner.

Thank you for the well-structured lectures and interesting learning experiences. This was a very manageable course, which provided tools that I could immediately put into practice at school and at home.

Thank you for designing such an informative and interesting course. I work as a receptive skill specialist at an elementary school and this course has helped me to a tremendous extent. I have a few challenged students, and with the understanding provided by this course, it has been easier for me to initiate programs to help them develop further.

I wanted to sincerely thank you for this terrific course which helped me better understand Dyslexia. You have been most exhaustive in your presentations and I feel I come out of this experience with definitely more awareness on this area. I have already made some accommodations in class as all children benefit from multi-sensory approaches.

A girl in my class seems to present some of the traits discussed in this course; you gave me many ideas and resources for supporting her, thank you for your patience and for your passion in teaching us.

I am currently working in Nigeria teaching French and this course has taught me so much and made me re-structure my teaching styles and methods for those students who are struggling.

I have already had some interesting insights from this course which I can relate to individual pupils!

I thought I knew a lot about phonics but I never thought about the process all this information takes.

I am doing a research on dyslexia and this course is an eye opener. I have already started using my knowledge to help students with reading problems in my own little way.

Thank you so much for a hugely insightful course. I learnt a great deal and now have a far more in-depth understanding of dyslexia and the difficulties associated with it.

I am really enjoying this course. Even though I feel I came with a certain amount of expertise, I have learned so much. It is very well presented and is very interesting. Thank you!

This was the best course ever, I will keep referring to it throughout my career.

I thoroughly enjoyed undertaking this course. The material was delivered clearly, thoughtfully and in a way that was easily understood. I will take what I have learnt through this course and apply it now in assisting children as a specialist dyslexia teacher/tutor.

... wonderful, inspiring and invaluable lectures.

This is the best course I've ever done on Coursera. It's not just watching some videos, but actually studying the topic and getting challenged.

Excellent! Incredibly rich lectures, knowledgeable staff/instructors and great resources provided. I learned a great deal from participants as well in the discussion forum from students all over the world.

A very very helpful course that gives practical solutions in a classroom and school-wide setting.

... this course has supplied me with an incredible amount of information that I can actually use with my students next week!

The instructors are wonderful, and the content is something I will read over and over in the future. Thank you, Coursera, for providing this to us.

I particularly liked the initial weeks of learning how the visual and auditory centers in the brain work. This has helped me better help my students.

Excellent explanations, simple and accuracy. Both teachers are very qualified.

I found this course to be extremely informative, filled with the latest research findings and recommendations to assist those working with dyslexic learners ... I highly recommend this course- don't miss it!

Excellent course for beginners and specialists alike. I highly recommend the course for anyone interested in specialist work or supporting students.

This is an excellent course for teachers who want to better understand and support children with reading difficulties. The content of the course encompasses all of the main aspects of concern and the references to the research provides a springboard to further study in this area.

This is the best course I've ever done on Coursera. It's not just watching some videos, but actually studying the topic and getting challenged. I'm taking so much away for my work.

Estoy haciendo un trabajo sobre la construcción del concepto de dificultades de aprendizaje y he conseguido información actualizada en este curso. Gracias.

It is hard for us as teachers, and it is harder if we don't know how to help them and if we don't have any experience. Nowadays, where I live public education now includes them in the regular classes, when they used to separate them from the other, and that makes me happy, because they don't feel rejected anymore but the problem now is that the government or the teachers don't make an effort to prepare themselves or prepare them which is really sad. I appreciate that you are preparing in order to help her and also for the future.

This course is going to help me be a better teacher and it's also making me reflect back on how I learned to read and write.

Just after finishing the first session, I must confess that I have to raise my hands up! I know nothing about dyslexia and I am really eager to be an excellent student of this course. And here is some feedback from a survey in which we asked teachers,

following their completion of the course, to describe an individual they felt had made progress.

[one of pupils] was always shy when we asked him to write, even short notes. He knew he was dyslexic, but he didn't know how to approach it. During the course I shared ideas and we began to work. He still confuses letters but now is more confident and he knows everything he writes must be double-revised, but he is writing more and is having fun with that.

One young man has been struggling for many years. He started school with cognitive death* (or back then we thought it learned helplessness), he did not enjoy writing, reading or learning maths concepts and the gap with his peers just got greater every year. The lectures about the psychological aspects and the strategies helped me to adjust my approach and support his learning in a way that has given him more ownership of the learning, and he wants to learn.

*This is the dramatic term used by a psychologist and reprised in one of the lectures.

One student has made gains of two years in two months of tutoring. He is 14 years old. He tested at a 1st grade level for spelling before tutoring started. I retested him after two months – he is spelling at 3rd grade level. I have not retested him for reading as of yet, but he is making great strides there as well.

Boy, aged 14: I asked him to assist me as a subject in the course questionnaires. He was quiet in class and somewhat isolated. He was also the reason for taking the course and finding out more about dyslexia. During 5 and after the course he has been more willing to talk and to ask questions; he is also more involved in reading. He will initiate conversations and give me news about himself in class.

I've learned more how to support children more effectively so even though they find things difficult they are better understood and tackle reading with a better attitude which is half the battle.

By using the knowledge from the course I am able to better approach the student and their learning and fine tune some techniques to better assist them with a positive outcome. This has led to success and a better sense of achievement for them.

One particular boy has gone from being a virtual non-reader with a negative attitude to looking forward to the next book I bring as he can now access the text, having been taught for only eight weeks to date using a multisensory approach.

The learner has issues – both skills/abilities and attitude – with mathematics. By making the lesson focused 'every day' [transactions] – time, purchases etc [but never using the "M" word) – I eventually saw him almost double his mathematics grades. As an early grades teacher, the foundations of reading begin in my level. I have noticed how children with difficulties have started to gain more confidence in performing activities. That, in itself, has shown that they improved their learning habits and skills.

One of my adult learners wanted (and needed) a job so as to come off the many years of welfare. We discussed a pathway towards a goal, and the first step was

[acquiring] a driver's licence. Reading and understanding the Test Questions became a series of lessons. Fear to face the questions was agreed 6 challenges; together we 'faced the fears' by using strategies in this MOOC. The fear is now greatly reduced.