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Susan Barton and the Barton Method

Introduction- Susan Barton and the Barton Method

Susan Barton is the founder of the Bright Solutions for dyslexia and the Barton Method. She is also in the Hall of Honor at the headquarters of the International Dyslexia Association. Since 1998, Barton has educated people about dyslexia and has implemented different methods to help children and adults who experience difficulties with reading and spelling. The Barton Method is a tool that Susan invented to help with dyslexia by employing a specific tutoring system.

Life of Susan Barton

Barton's first career did not involve dyslexia. After graduating from college, she worked in the computer field for about 20 years. She originally became interested in dyslexia because of her nephew, who struggled in school. Even though he had extra help from different programs, even in high school he tested at a second-grade reading level. At this time, because little was known about dyslexia, schools told her nephew that his reading, writing, and spelling would never improve beyond a certain point. Concerned about his future and the education of others with dyslexia, Barton decided to change her field and dedicated time to figuring out how to solve the problem of dyslexia.

Once Barton switched fields, she spent many years learning about dyslexia. After obtaining specific dyslexia training and spending time working with adults with dyslexia, she was hired to work at a for-profit clinic for dyslexic children. Once she started working for this clinic, Barton spent a number of years tutoring children between the ages of 6 to 17. This experience allowed her an opportunity to try different methods, including the Orton-Gillingham-based method, the Lindamood-Bell system, and approaches which took into account studies involving new Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Barton began to use these methods to help children she tutored. During mandatory IEP meetings for her students, she started to realize how many school professionals and parents lacked current research-based information about dyslexia.

In 1998, Barton founded Bright Solutions for Dyslexia. The purpose this organization is to educate parents, teachers, and students about the causes, symptoms, and solutions for those who have dyslexia. Numerous jobs have been created by Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, and Barton has trained many of these tutors in graduate courses offered at the University of San Diego. She has spoken at numerous conferences, giving presentations across the United States, and offered training symposiums at both public and private schools. Because of Barton's achievements, contributions, and effort, the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) has installed about her in their Hall of Honor.

The Barton Method

Dyslexia is a learning disorder which, makes it hard to read, write, and spell. Some of the symptoms including difficulty in learning new words, trouble with memorizing, having a hard time spelling and understanding, speaking delays in childhood development, and speech impairment. The causes of dyslexia are genetic and only partially understood.

The Barton Method encompasses reading, writing, and spelling strategies influenced by Orton-Gillingham. One-on-one tutoring system strengthens language skills in those with dyslexia. Every student starts on the same level and follows the same plan. Level 1 involves basic Phonemic Awareness with level 10 Greek words and Latin Roots. Each level contains about 10 to 15 lessons. It takes about 3 to 5 months to complete a level if students use the method the recommended amount of time, which is twice a week.

A Barton Method kit includes two tutor training DVDs, a coil-bound copyrighted manual, an unbound master of the student pages, a set of color-coded letter tiles, other lesson materials, and unlimited support by phone. The pricing for the Barton Method is less than \$100 a month. The bartonreading website also lists, for free, general tutoring strategies. Parents who homeschool are allowed to share a Barton Method kit with nearby parents who also homeschool. Used kits are also available through an authorized reseller. Other options include attending a school that offers the Barton style of learning and, hiring a Barton certified tutor.

Due to the research surrounding its development, the Barton Method has been very successful in dealing with dyslexia. Success stories involving those whose lives have been transformed appear on the Barton website. Three states have also had their school boards the learning system: Colorado, Arkansas, and California. The Barton Method has also been supported by the Common Core Standards, an educational initiative that lists what students K-12 should be learning in the United States.

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