

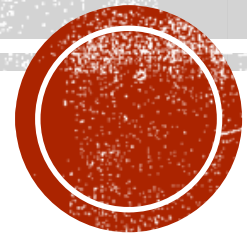
# **CORRECTION OF PHONOLOGICAL DEFICITS IN STUDENTS WITH DYSLLEXIA THROUGH THE USE OF A PHONEMIC ALPHABET, (I.T.A.)**

Brenda Debner, MAI













































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Initial Teaching Alphabet Foundation, Inc.

New York, NY, USA



# INITIAL TEACHING ALPHABET (I.T.A.)

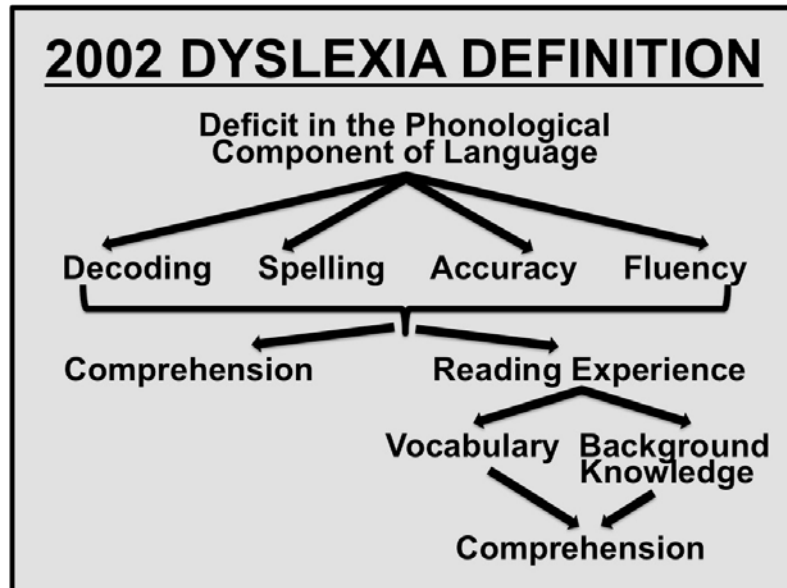
a 	æ 	b 	h 	n 	v 
e 	ee 	c 	j 	p 	w 
i 	ie 	d 	k 	r 	y 
o 	oe 	f 	l 	s 	z 
u 	ue 	g 	m 	t 	
ɑ 	au 	r 	z 	ʃh 	th 
ω 	ω 	3 	rg 	ch 	th 
ou 	oi 			wh 	



# DYSLEXIA FACTS

## Incidence of Dyslexia

- 2x more prevalent in English than in transparent languages (German, Italian)
- Caused by Phonological Deficit



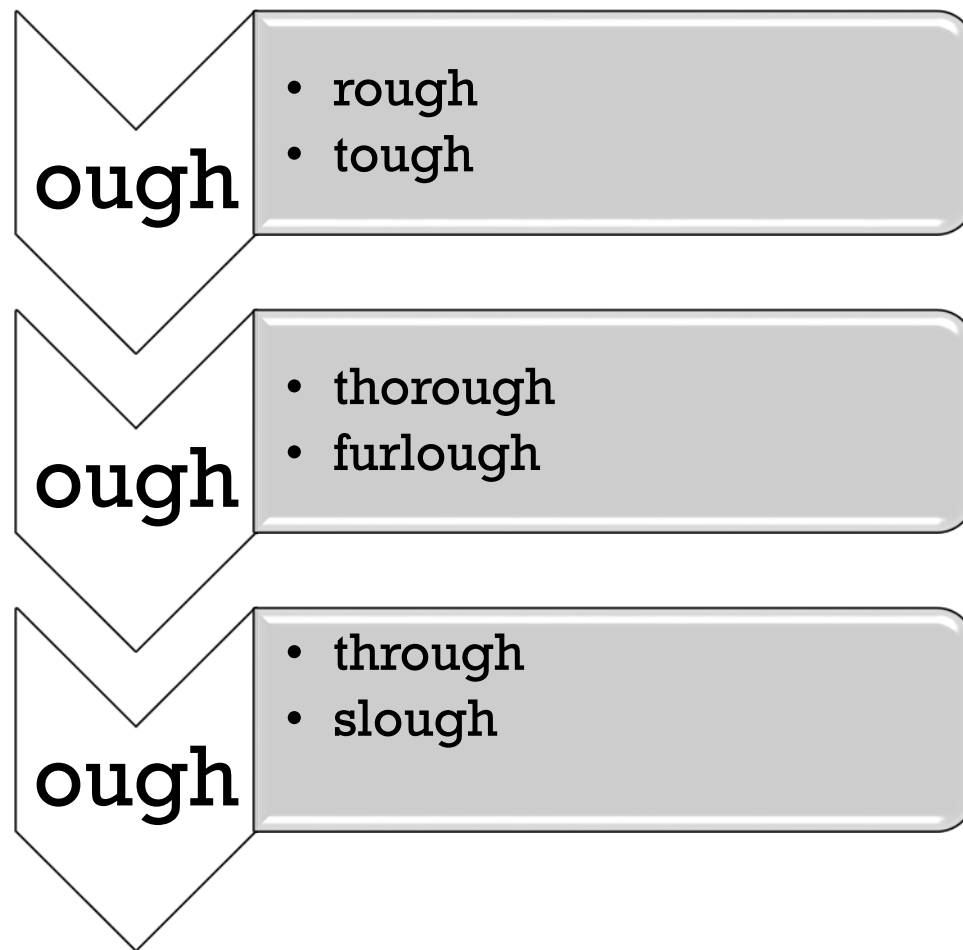
## Phonological Awareness

- Understanding that spoken language can be analyzed by syllables and sounds
- Examples:
  - How many syllables do you hear in \_\_\_\_?
  - How many sounds do you hear in \_\_\_\_?
  - Say “meat.” Say it again, but don’t say /m/



# THE PROBLEM: ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY


















- ❑ 44 sounds but only 26 letters
- ❑ Sounds can be written >1,100 ways
- ❑ Same letter sequences = different sounds





# WHY I.T.A. NEEDED FOR DYSLEXIC READERS

- *How normally-developing readers learn*
  - Write—sed      wuz      uv
  - See—said      was      of
- *Good readers have both an orthographic and phonetic representation of words*
  - tough = tuf
  - furlough = fɜ:lœ
  - through = thrɔ
- *Dyslexic readers missing this connection*

a 	æ 	b 	h 	n 	v 
e 	œ 	c 	j 	p 	w 
i 	ie 	d 	k 	r 	y 
o 	œ 	f 	l 	s 	z 
u 	ue 	g 	m 	t 	
ɑ 	au 	r 	z 	ʃh 	th 
ω 	ω 	3 	ɪg 	ch 	th 
ou 	oi 			wh 	



# HOW I.T.A. IS USED WITH DYSLEXIC READERS

## Writing

ie liek

ie liek hoersis. ie liek tω reed. tωdæ ie waunt jim clas. socr  
is mie fævrit spoert. ie liek cats bæcaus thæ ar sauft and  
flufæ. ie liek maps bæcaus it is fun tω lɾn nω things.

## Reading



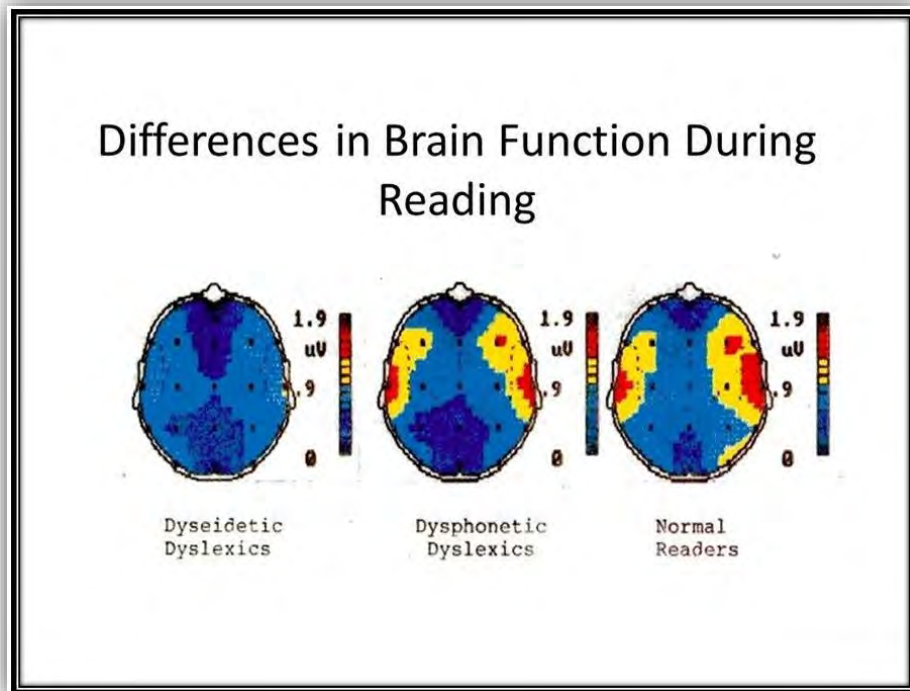
Snowmanikul

wuns upon u tiem, thær wus u snoeman næmd  
Snowmanikul (Snowman + ikul). Snowmanikul had  
a jolæ red noes with tω pufæ butun ies. Snowmanikul  
is u væræ smaul snoeman. hæ woer u yelœ hat with  
butuns on it, that sed, "wundrful." hæ had tω crvd  
arms, with tω red flufæ mitens on thu ends.  
Snowmanikul wus a veræ jenrus snoeman.

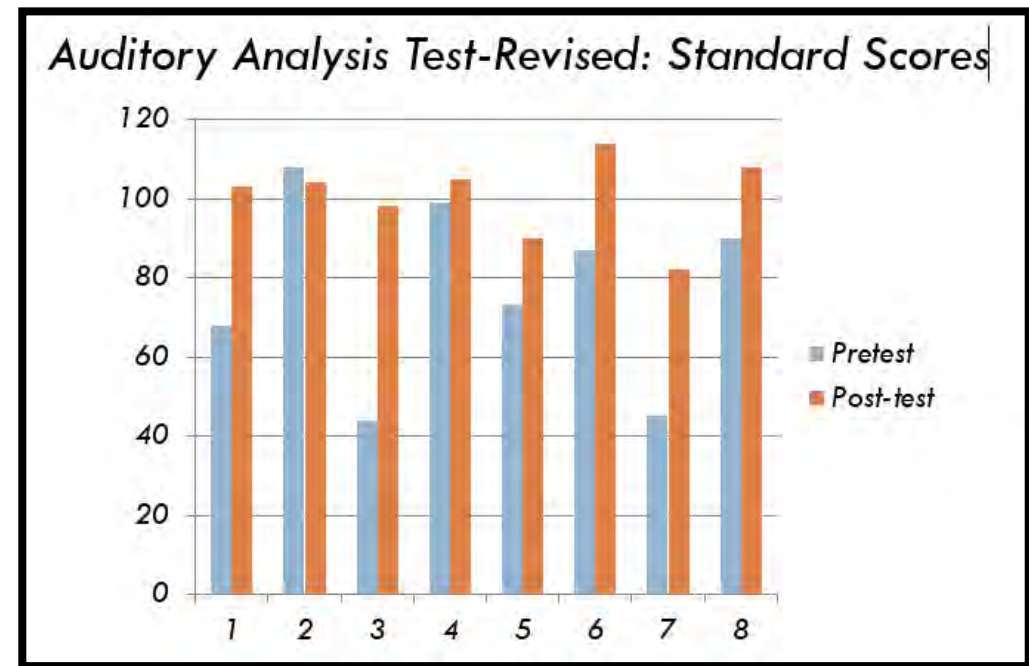


# CAN DYSLLEXIA BE REMEDIATED?

**Flynn & colleagues, 1989-1993**



**Debner & Flynn Anderson, 2017**



# BRAIN MAPPING STUDY: DO SUBTYPES OF DYSLEXIA EXIST?

## Dysphonetic

- Guess from context or picture cues
- Read rapidly and inaccurately
- Substitute words that start with the same letter (boat 4 bait)
- Spelling errors are nonphonetic
  - **kih**in 4 kitchen
  - **instot** 4 institute
  - **eqimen** 4 equipment

## Dysorthographic (Dyseidetic)

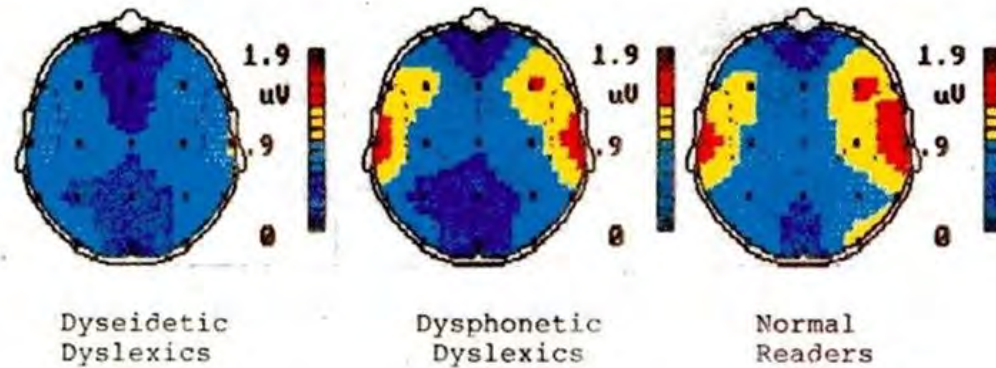
- Sound out the same word over and over
- Cannot recognize words on sight
- Read very slowly
- Generally have difficulty comprehending longer texts
- Spell phonetically
  - **wo**ch 4 watch
  - **oneru**bul 4 honorable
  - **foto**graf 4 photograph





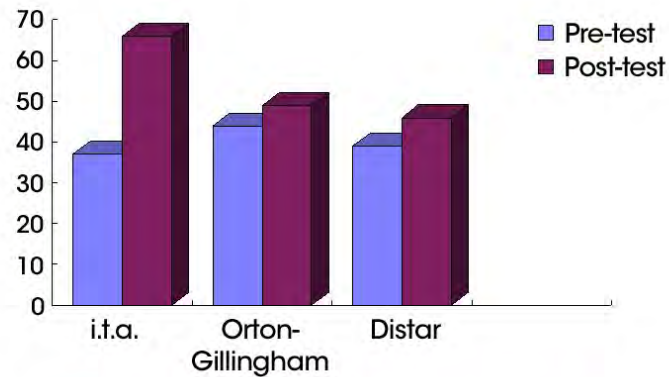
# NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR SUBTYPES OF DYSLEXIA

Differences in Brain Function During Reading



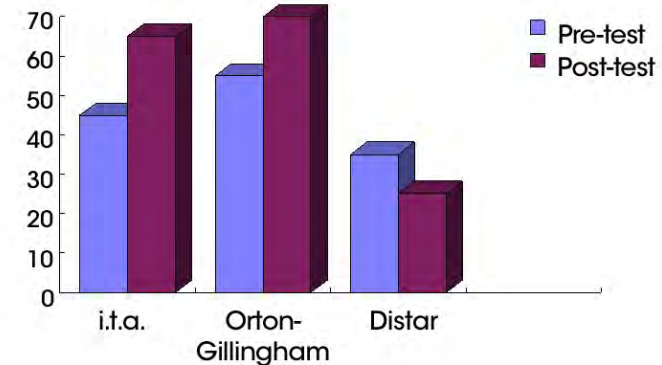
# ACADEMIC GAINS OF I.T.A. INTERVENTION

## Gains in Reading Fluency



Curriculum-based Assessment

## Spelling Gains



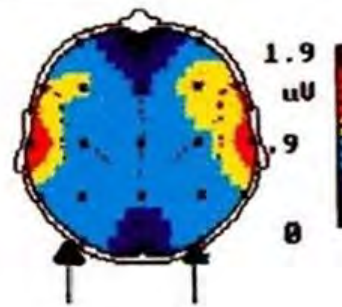
WRAT-R Spelling Subtest



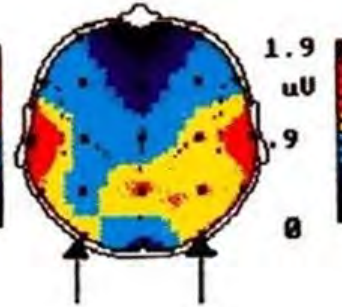
# NORMALIZATION EFFECT OF INTERVENTION

Education Normalizes Brain Function!

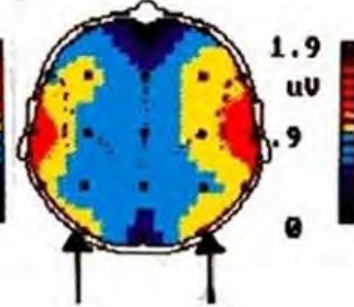
Unremediated  
Dysphonetics  
n=23

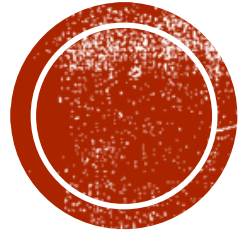


Remediated  
Dysphonetics  
n=4



Normal  
Readers  
n=6





# WHAT IS THE MECHANISM FOR NORMALIZATION? HOW DOES I.T.A. WORK?

Debner Phonological Intervention Study  
“Slash and Dash”



# Slash and Dash

- Tutor dictates multisyllabic word (**pusillanimous**)
- Student
  - Slashes each syllable / / / / /
  - Dashes each sound in each syllable \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_ /
  - Writes i.t.a. symbol for each sound p ue / s u / l a / n u / m u s /
  - Finds word in a dictionary pu sil la ni mous



## SPELLING MULTISYLLABIC WORDS WITH “SLASH AND DASH”

\* \* \*

opportunity  
o|p|o|e|r|t|w|n|i|t|e|e|



# RESEARCH DESIGN FOR “SLASH AND DASH” STUDY

## Methodology

- Single-subject design
- Sample:
  - 8 Sp. Ed. Students-4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Procedure:
  - Intervention over 30 school days
  - Slash and Dash 4 words daily
  - Each week: test transfer of intervention-GFE

## Instrumentation

- Pre and Post-Tests
  - Auditory Analysis Test-Revised
  - WRAT 4 Spelling Test
  - Multisyllabic 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum words



# RESULTS: WIDE RANGE ACHIEVEMENT TEST

## Paired-Sample T-Test

GOOD PHONETIC EQUIVALENTS- WRAT			
	Mean	Std.Deviation	Sig.
Pre-WRAT	14	13	0.002
Post-WRAT	47	21	

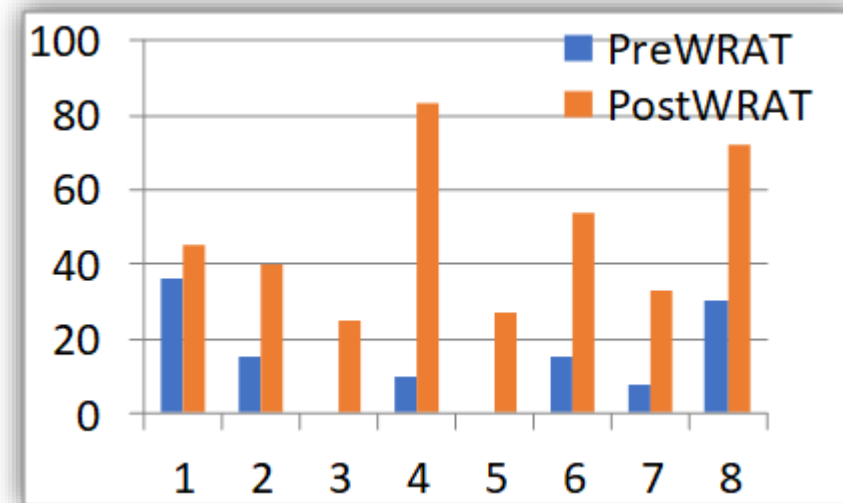
Examples:

institute-instatute

explain-explane

kitchen-kitchin OR cichin

## Percent of words written as GFEs



# RESULTS: MULTISYLLABIC WORDS TEST

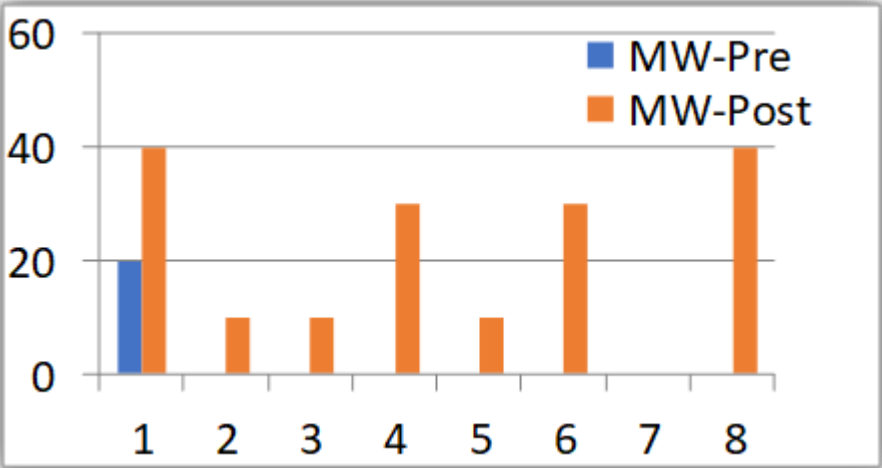
## Paired-Sample T-Test

Multisyllabic Words List of 10 Words Scored for GFEs			
	Mean	Std.Deviation	Sig.
Pre-MW	3	7	0.006
Post-MW	21	16	

Examples:

insignificant – **inse**gnifegent  
unstructured-**unstruct**shured  
respiration-**res**piration

## Percent of words written as GFEs





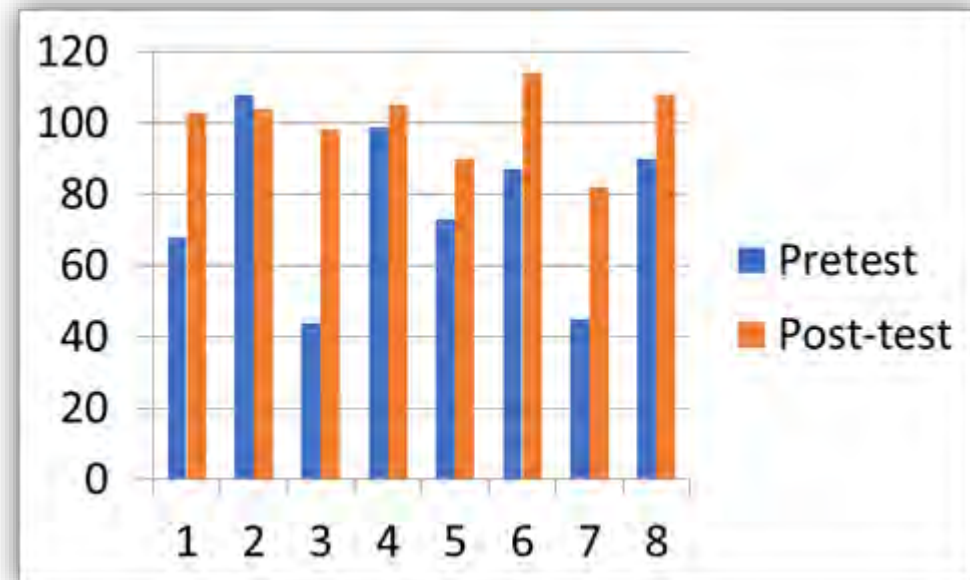
# RESULTS: AUDITORY ANALYSIS TEST

## Paired-sample T-Test

Auditory Analysis Test-Revised Standard Scores			
	Mean	Std.Deviation	Sig.
Pre-AATR	81	21.5	0.02
Post- AATR	103	7.6	

“Say___”	“Don’t Say___”	Correct Response
turkey	tur	key
create	/e/long	crate
location	ca	lotion
carpenter	pen	carter

## Standard scores on AAT-R



# CONCLUSIONS

## 1. Dyslexia CAN be remediated



"I wanted to write to you to say thank you for all the work you have done

to help children learn to read. I don't know who I would be today without i.t.a.. Not only do I love to read for enjoyment, but I have been able to get a great education and help others."

~ Jessica Anderson, MSW  
University of MN

## 2. Remediation normalizes brain function



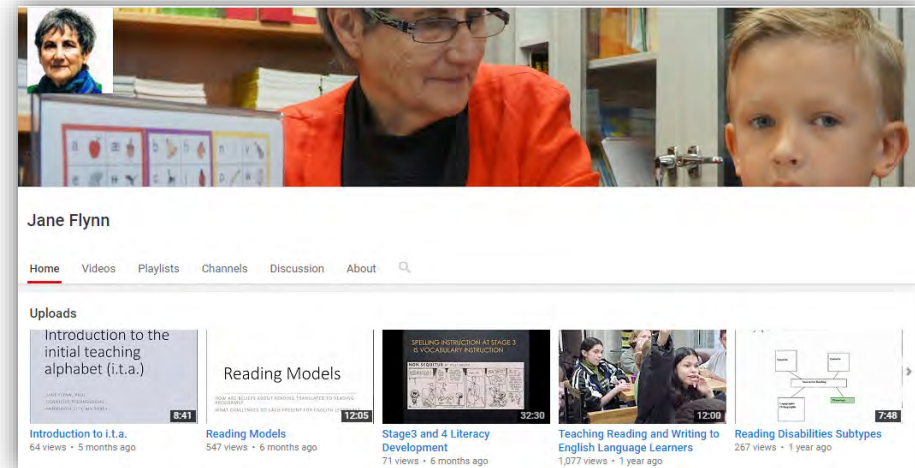
# RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Additional Research of Dr. Jane Flynn (Anderson)



Readers interested in Dr. Flynn's research are invited to download the following publications...

- Eavesdropping on the Brain
- Assessment Issues in Child Neuropsychology
- Synthesis of Research on the Use of the Initial Teaching Alphabet
- Educational Validation Studies with Subtypes of Learning-Disabled Readers
- Educational and Psychological Assessment of Exceptional Children
- ROAR and Use of the I.T.A. for Remediation of Dyslexia



▪ <http://itaprogramwinonasmu.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ReadingDocFlynn>

