



Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners in Texas A Fact Sheet for Professionals

WHAT DO LICENSED DYSLEXIA THERAPISTS AND LICENSED DYSLEXIA PRACTITIONERS DO?

Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners are dyslexia remediation professionals who have voluntarily chosen to be licensed by the state of Texas under the provisions of Occupations Code, Chapter 403. They provide educational services and tools to individuals with dyslexia, including multisensory structured language education.

SINCE LICENSURE IS VOLUNTARY, WHY WOULD AN EDUCATOR CHOOSE TO BE LICENSED?

Licensed dyslexia therapists and practitioners choose to be licensed so the public can identify them as dyslexia-service providers who meet the minimum standards set forth by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The standards include passing an examination, completing classroom training, completing clinical experience, and conducting demonstration lessons. Since licensed dyslexia therapists and licensed dyslexia practitioners are required to complete continuing education classes biennially to maintain licensure, the public will know that licensed educators are maintaining and upgrading their skills and knowledge in order to provide quality services. Those who choose to be licensed are regulated by the state of Texas in order to increase public confidence in their practice. When an educator is licensed, the public may report violations of the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 403, or rules to DSHS through the complaint and investigation process.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A LICENSED DYSLEXIA PRACTITIONER AND A LICENSED DYSLEXIA THERAPIST? WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME LICENSED?

A Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner:

- holds a BACHELOR'S degree (or an advanced degree) from a regionally accredited public or private institution of higher education;
- has completed at least 45 hours of course work in multisensory structured language education that meets the requirements of the licensing rules;
- has completed at least 60 hours of supervised clinical experience in multisensory structured language education;
- has completed at least 5 demonstration lessons of the practice of multisensory structured language education, each observed by an instructor from a training program that meets the requirements of the licensing rules; and
- has successfully completed the Alliance National Registration Examination for Multisensory Structured Language Education Associate/Teaching Level administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA).

A Licensed Dyslexia Therapist:

- holds a MASTER'S degree (or a more advanced degree) from a regionally accredited public or private institution of higher education;
- has completed at least 200 hours of course work in multisensory structured language education from a training program that meets the requirements of the licensing rules;
- has completed at least 700 hours of supervised clinical experience in multisensory structured language education;
- has completed at least 10 demonstration lessons of the practice of multisensory structured language education, each observed by an instructor from a training program that meets the requirements of the

licensing rules; and

- has successfully completed the Alliance National Registration Examination for Multisensory Structured Language Education Therapist Level administered by the Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA).

HOW DOES ONE BECOME LICENSED?

The application for licensure can be found on the following website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia. You must document the highest degree you have earned by submitting an original college transcript. You must also document completion of the required number of coursework hours, supervised clinical experience hours, demonstration lessons, and passing the required examination. You may submit a photocopy of your *current* Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) membership card as documentation of having completed the required number of coursework hours, supervised clinical experience, demonstration lessons, and passing the required exam. If you are *not* currently a member of ALTA, you must include certificates and/or letters from your training programs showing proof of completion of the required number of coursework hours, supervised clinical experience hours, and completed demonstration lessons. If you are *not* currently a member of ALTA, you must also submit proof of passing the required examination.

IF I AM A CERTIFIED ACADEMIC LANGUAGE THERAPIST AND I CURRENTLY HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, CAN I BECOME A LICENSED DYSLEXIA THERAPIST?

Yes, but only if you act quickly. A person who holds a bachelor's degree and who completes the training, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a dyslexia therapist is eligible to be licensed as a dyslexia therapist (even though the person does not hold a master's degree). The person must complete the training, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a dyslexia therapist prior to November 30, 2012 and must postmark a complete licensure application on or before December 31, 2012 in order to be eligible for this special provision.

WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE REMEDIATION OF DYSLEXIA AND OTHER RELATED DISORDERS?

The primary resource is the Texas Education Agency's *Dyslexia Handbook*. You can access the handbook through the following link: www.tea.state.tx.us.

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