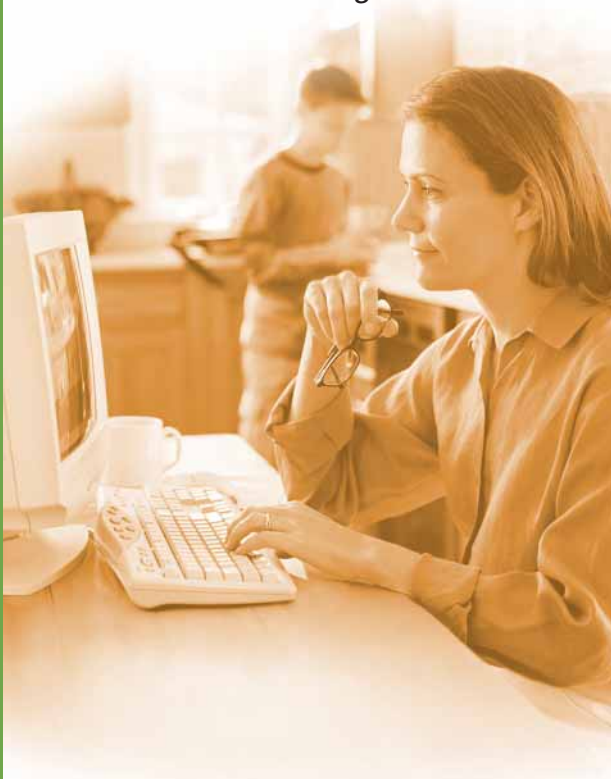


 SCHOLASTIC

A Schwab Learning Program

Light the Spark

Encouraging Self-Esteem and Success
in Kids with Learning Difficulties



Featuring

 SchwabLearning.org

A Parent's Guide to Helping Kids with Learning Difficulties



SPARKTOP.ORG™

WHERE NO TWO BRAINS SPARK ALIKE!



© Marc Romanelli/The Image Bank/Getty Images

Dear Parent:

When our son was in the second grade, he struggled to read, and he was ultimately identified with dyslexia. At the time, it was difficult for us to find reliable information that could help us understand his learning disability. We established Schwab Learning, a nonprofit program of the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation, to help other parents who were experiencing the same frustrations.

Kids who struggle in school need to know that it is okay to learn differently, that everyone has their own strengths and challenges, and that their talents can help them achieve their dreams.

Children with learning difficulties *can* learn. Kids who struggle in the classroom *can* succeed in school and life. By providing information, guidance, and encouragement to parents, teachers, and children, Schwab Learning helps families and teachers work together to positively affect the lives of kids with learning difficulties. You can learn more about these free resources in the following pages.

Sincerely,
Charles and Helen Schwab

Family & School: A Winning Combination

When families and schools work together, children receive the support they need to succeed. Parent-teacher partnerships are especially important when kids struggle with learning or attention problems. Together, parents and teachers can highlight children's strengths while helping them overcome challenges.

The keys to effective teamwork between home and school are to:

- **Collaborate:** Work cooperatively to take steps that help students reach their full potential. Everyone on the team can add ideas to the game plan.
- **Communicate:** The process of learning is complex. It's critical for families and schools to share information and concerns in a clear and constructive way.
- **Coordinate:** Each member of the team should know what his or her role is—and how it fits in with the overall plan.

Working together, families and schools can help kids succeed in learning and in life.



© Firefly Productions/CORBIS

Team Up with Your Child's School

SchwabLearning.org provides information and inspiration to help you better collaborate with your child and his school. Our free website offers:

- Tips to help you communicate effectively with your child and his teachers.
- Clear, accurate facts about learning and attention problems.
- Practical strategies to use at home and in the classroom.
- Information on the legal rights and responsibilities of parents, students, and schools.
- A weekly email newsletter...and much more!

Your Child's Resource for Self-Esteem and Success

Research shows that self-esteem is crucial to a child's success. That's why **SparkTop.org™** is dedicated to helping kids with learning difficulties feel great about who they are. Through a variety of activities, SparkTop.org:

- Helps kids recognize their unique strengths and talents.
- Delivers accurate information on how kids learn.
- Provides proven strategies on homework, studying, and more.
- Offers games and activities for kids to have fun!



By incorporating SparkTop.org into their daily lives, kids can develop the tools they need to be successful in learning and life.



A free website designed for parents of kids with learning difficulties.

SchwabLearning.org understands that children with learning difficulties may struggle—in the classroom and in relationships with family and friends.

We provide information to help parents manage these challenges and to help their children discover their unique strengths and talents.

We help you understand how to:

- **Identify** problems by working with teachers, doctors, and other professionals.
- **Manage** challenges at school and home by collaborating with teachers to obtain support, and by using effective parenting strategies.
- **Connect** with others on our message boards who understand what you are going through.
- **Locate resources** such as Schwab Learning publications, additional books, and websites.

We invite you to explore SchwabLearning.org—trustworthy information at your fingertips, 24 hours a day.



HELP YOUR CHILD JOIN TODAY!

SparkTop.org members are part of a unique community where they can:

- Showcase their achievements
- Win sweepstakes and contests
- Safely connect with other kids

Registration is easy, confidential, and free. Your privacy and that of your child are fully protected at all times, and we will never share or sell your personal information.

HERE'S HOW TO JOIN:

- Visit www.SparkTop.org.
- Click on “Join SparkTop.”
- Then click “Register Now”—you’re on your way!

For more information on our Privacy Policy, visit www.SparkTop.org/adult/privacy.html.



SparkTop.org is a Parents' Choice 2004 Recommended Award Winner