 **Advice for  
Parents who Homeschool**  
or want to homeschool  
Using the Barton Reading & Spelling System

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 **I am Susan Barton**  
■ Founder  
    ■ Bright Solutions for Dyslexia  
and  
■ Developer  
    ■ Barton Reading & Spelling System

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 **Here's what I look like**



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## I assume

- You are already homeschooling
  - Or are strongly considering it
- At least one of your children
  - Struggles with reading, spelling & writing
- You use, or are thinking about using,
  - Barton Reading & Spelling System

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## Barton designed for dyslexia

- A diagnosis is not required, but it assumes . . .
  - Student reads slowly and makes lots of mistakes
    - Has a hard time sounding out unknown words
      - Despite being taught phonics or phonograms
  - Struggles with spelling
    - May do okay on the weekly spelling test
      - But cannot retain those words from week to week
    - Does not spell well when writing stories
      - Not even the high frequency words
        - friend, does, because

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## To learn more about dyslexia

- Watch my free on-line video
  - Dyslexia: Symptoms & Solutions
    - on the first page of our dyslexia website
    - [www.BrightSolutions.US](http://www.BrightSolutions.US)

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 **Dyslexia is not a requirement**

- Great way to teach reading & spelling if:
  - Student is at least 5
  - Speaks & understands spoken English
    - Not an ESL program
    - Not okay if severe receptive or expressive language problems
  - No reason to suspect mental retardation
    - IQ above 70
  - Student can pass our 10-minute student screening
    - [www.BartonReading.com](http://www.BartonReading.com)
    - choose Students, then Student Screening

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 **Since dyslexia is not required. . .**

- You can use Barton with all of your children
  - Who meet our criteria
- But please . . .
  - Tutor them separately

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## For the Barton System to work

- Each child needs at least
  - 2 hours of one-on-one tutoring every week
    - More is better
    - Ideal if you can do Barton every day
  - No more than one hour per session
    - Young children may only be able to handle 30 minutes

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## Counts for all Language Arts

- It should replace all language arts curriculum
  - Barton is complete for
    - Reading
    - Spelling
    - Grammar
    - Vocabulary
    - Fluency
    - Comprehension
    - Written expression at the sentence level.
  - Good program for composing paragraphs and essays
    - At the end of Level 4

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## Each level comes with



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## More free Barton "goodies"

- On our Tutor Support Website:
  - Spelling Rule Picture Flashcards
  - Weekly spelling tests
  - Link to our free internet-based games
  - More extra practice pages (for levels 2 and 3)
  - Fluency building drills (for levels 2, 3, 4 and 5)
  - Link to comprehension activities
  - Answers to commonly asked questions – by level
- To access that Tutor Support website
  - go to [www.BartonReading.com](http://www.BartonReading.com)

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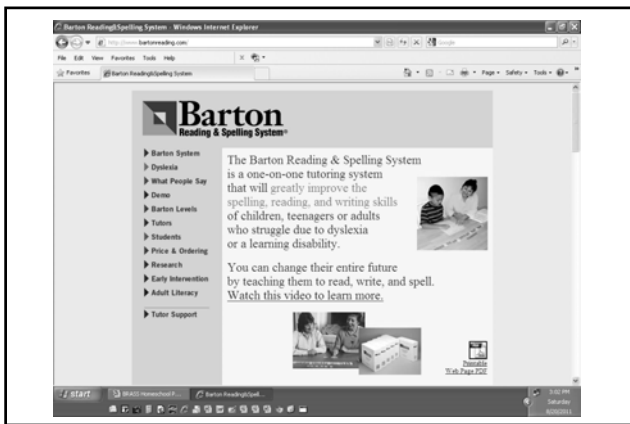
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## Common Concerns

- Can I really be as effective as a professional tutor?
- What if I have dyslexia too?
  - Okay if you can pass tutor screening

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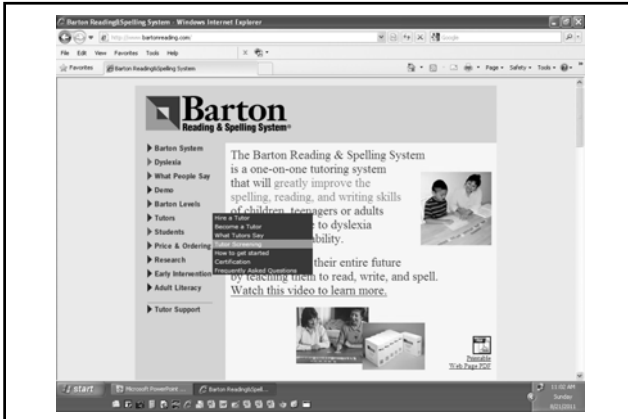
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## Common Concerns

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## Common Concerns

- Can I really be as effective as a professional tutor?
- What if I have dyslexia too?
  - Okay if you can pass tutor screening
  - Your own spelling will get better
- Free unlimited support
  - By phone, fax, email, or website
- How will I know my child has mastered it?
  - Give the posttest at the end of each level
  - Mastery = pass it easily with at least 95% accuracy

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## Barton does not teach penmanship

If your child has dysgraphia, I recommend:

- Handwriting Without Tears
  - for Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- HWT is good for printing
  - Their cursive program is not as good
    - Teach cursive once
      - So they learn to form and connect cursive letters
    - Then let them switch back to printing

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## Also teach keyboarding - typing

- Not an easy skill to master
  - Type to Learn from Sunburst, [www.Sunburst.com](http://www.Sunburst.com)
    - Works on Mac or PC
    - Also get the removable key cap cover
- To prevent discouragement
  - The first time, change settings to:
    - Large size print, low vocabulary
    - 10 wpm, 75 % accuracy
  - The second time, change settings to:
    - Medium sized print, medium vocabulary
    - 20 to 25 wpm, 90 % accuracy

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## During Barton lessons

- Do not criticize their penmanship
- If writing by hand is difficult or painful
  - Okay to stand up
    - and write on a chalk board or white board
  - Or sit and write on a lap-sized white board
  - Or type the words, phrases, and sentences
    - if spell check is turned off

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## No outside reading

- During the first few levels of Barton
  - Unless controlled text
    - such as Barton Stand Alone Chapter books
    - or books listed in Games & Extra Activities section
- No pleasure reading until middle of Level 4
  - And only then if the child initiates it
  - And does it independently, for pleasure
    - No reading it out loud to you or Grandma
- No textbook reading until the end of Level 6

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## What to do instead?

- Continue to read to your child
  - Textbooks, articles, literature, real books
  - Books at their intellect level (not their reading level)
    - To grow their vocabulary and knowledge of the world
    - To grow a love of reading
- Okay for them to “listen and read”
  - Some will prefer to just listen
  - Audio books from your local library
  - Many on-line sources for recorded books
  - Screen readers for e-books or Kindle

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## What about textbooks?

- Textbooks on audio from Learning Ally
  - [www.LearningAlly.org](http://www.LearningAlly.org)
    - Used to be Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic
  - App for the iPhone, iPod & iPad
    - For \$ 29.95, on their website
  - For the confirming professional
    - List me, Susan Barton
    - Title = Founder
    - Organization = Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

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## No outside writing

- If spelling counts
  - Either grade essays on content only
    - Ignore spelling, punctuation, and capitalization
  - Or let them dictate their essays
    - To you
    - Or into the computer using Naturally Speaking

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## When teaching other subjects

- Allow them to watch and then experience it hands-on
  - But read the textbook to them
  - Ask each end-of-chapter question out loud
  - Let them tell you the answer out loud
  - You write it down
- Naturally Speaking can do that
  - If the text & questions are on the computer screen

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## Which curriculum?

- I have never homeschooled
- Carol Morehart
  - Dyslexia specialist and
  - Homeschool curriculum consultant
  - with a strong specialty in math
  - [DirectionForLearning@columbus.rr.com](mailto:DirectionForLearning@columbus.rr.com)

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## Math

- Barton System will have no impact on math
- For adding & subtracting
  - [www.TouchMath.com](http://www.TouchMath.com)
- For multiplication & division facts
  - [www.TimesTales.com](http://www.TimesTales.com)
- If you need more than that
  - contact Carol Morehart

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## If you are not yet homeschooling

- Home School Legal Defense Association
  - [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org)
  - [www.YouCanHomeschool.org](http://www.YouCanHomeschool.org)
- Books (available at most libraries)
  - **Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling**
    - by Mary Pride, popular particularly with Christian families
  - **First Year of Homeschooling Your Child**
    - by Linda Dobson, popular, not a Christian resource

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## Worried about social activities?

- Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Church youth groups and choirs
- Private sports teams
  - Parks & Recreation Department
  - Home School Sportsnet
- Homeschool outings and classes
  - [www.home-school.com/groups](http://www.home-school.com/groups)
- Still play with kids in the neighborhood

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## Spend as much time

- Finding & developing their gifted areas
- As you do fixing their weak areas

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## People with dyslexia are gifted

- In one or more of these areas:
  - Art
  - Athletics
  - Music
  - People skills, good with animals
  - Mechanical skill, good logic
  - 3-D visualization
  - Extremely curious
  - Creative, global thinkers

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## So . . .

- Take them to museums or art galleries
- Private lessons or classes at community centers
- Find mentors, apprenticeships, lectures
  - Lots of great free courses and lectures
  - at iTunes University and [www.Ted.com](http://www.Ted.com)
- Volunteer work in area of strength or interest

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## That's my advice for homeschoolers

- If you have questions
  - Call me at 408-559-3652
    - Ask for Susan Barton

or

- Send me an email
  - [Susan@BrightSolutions.US](mailto:Susan@BrightSolutions.US)

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