



INCLUSION FOR INNOVATION

A COMPENDIUM OF DYSLEXIA JOURNEYS
THAT HAVE CHANGED OUR WORLD!

CHANGEINKK FOUNDATION

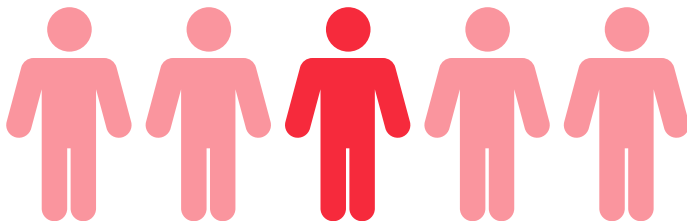
What are Specific Learning Disabilities?

Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) include Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, and Dyspraxia. Individuals with SLDs have average or above-average IQs and struggle with processing language, both spoken and written. This struggle may manifest as difficulties in comprehending, speaking, reading, writing, spelling, or performing mathematical calculations.

In spite of their many struggles with processing language, people with learning disabilities have many strengths in other areas, such as problem-solving, creativity, or thinking outside the box.

In a world where society often underestimates the abilities of individuals with disabilities, these individuals have built groundbreaking innovations and entrepreneurial ventures that impact our lives.

**1 OUT OF 5 INDIVIDUALS
HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY**



DYSLEXIC THINKING





DYSLEXIC THINKING

**is responsible for most of the
world's greatest scientific
breakthroughs.**



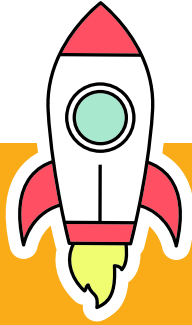
2X

**that's how high the percentage of
dyslexic persons is in the fields of
engineering, arts and
entrepreneurship compared to the
general population.**



40%

**of the world's self-made
millionaires are dyslexic.**



50%

of NASA employees are Dyslexic.



MIT DISEASE

Dyslexia is so common among students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that it is informally called the “MIT disease”.



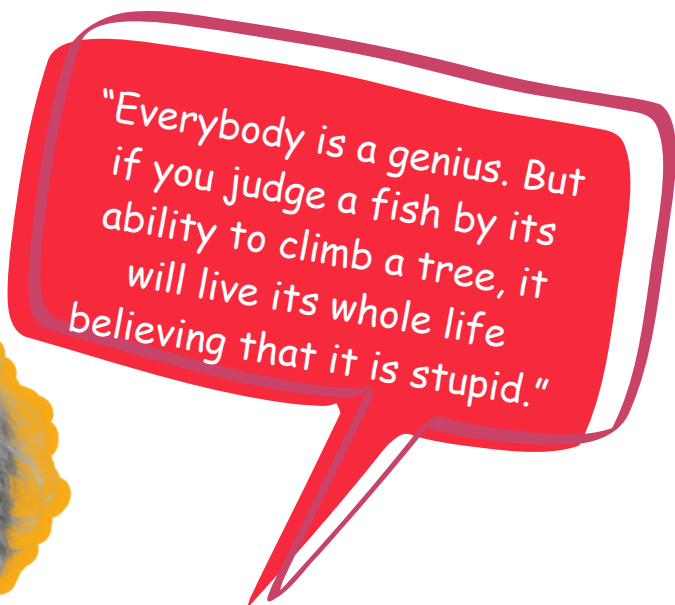
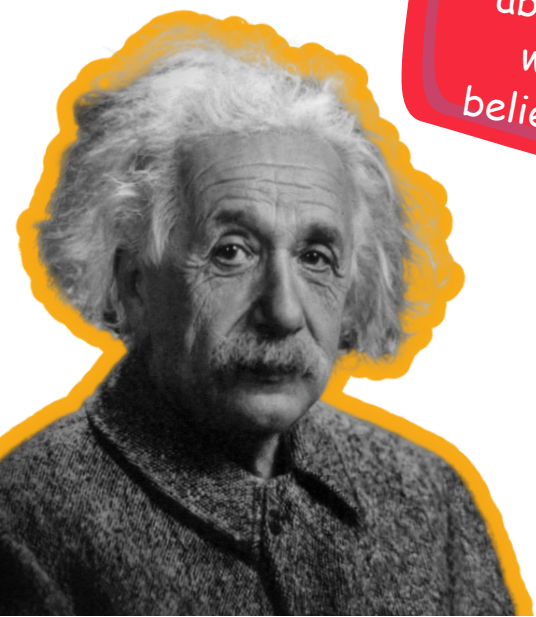
**MEET THE
DYSLEXIC
INNOVATORS**



Albert Einstein

Nobel Laureate, Theoretical Physicist

As little boy, Albert Einstein couldn't speak fluently until he turned 6. School was tough for him, as he struggled with reading aloud or putting his thoughts into writing. But here's the incredible part: he grew up to become a world-famous physicist and Nobel laureate! He is best known for the Theory of Relativity- $E=MC^2$.



Dr. Carol Greider

Nobel Laureate, Molecular Biologist

School was not easy for Dr. Carol Greider, a molecular biologist who won the Nobel Prize for her groundbreaking work in cancer research. In her early years, she was placed in remedial classes due to her difficulty in spelling and sounding out words, which made her feel "stupid." However, she was creative and persistent, teaching herself to read by memorizing words and their letter order, and as a result, she learned to thrive with her dyslexia.

"As a scientist, one has to intuit many different things that are going on at the same time and apply those to a particular problem. Perhaps my ability to pull more information out of context and put together difficult ideas may have been affected by what I learned to do from dyslexia."



Thomas Edison

Inventor & Entrepreneur

Thomas Edison's teacher dismissed him as too foolish to be taught because of his challenges with reading and writing. As a result, his mother was forced to pull him out of school. But she never stopped believing in him. After all, he had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. With her support, not only did he revolutionize the world with his invention of the light bulb, but he also holds patents for over 1,000 other remarkable creations!



"Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration."

Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Space Scientist and Educator

Dr. Aderin-Pocock attended 13 different schools before even reaching the age of 18! Because of her learning disability, she used to hide away at the back of the classroom to remain unseen by her teachers. But this young girl's story took an incredible twist. She built her first telescope when she was only a teenager. She grew up to become, a world-famous space scientist and educator, inspiring millions of girls around the world.

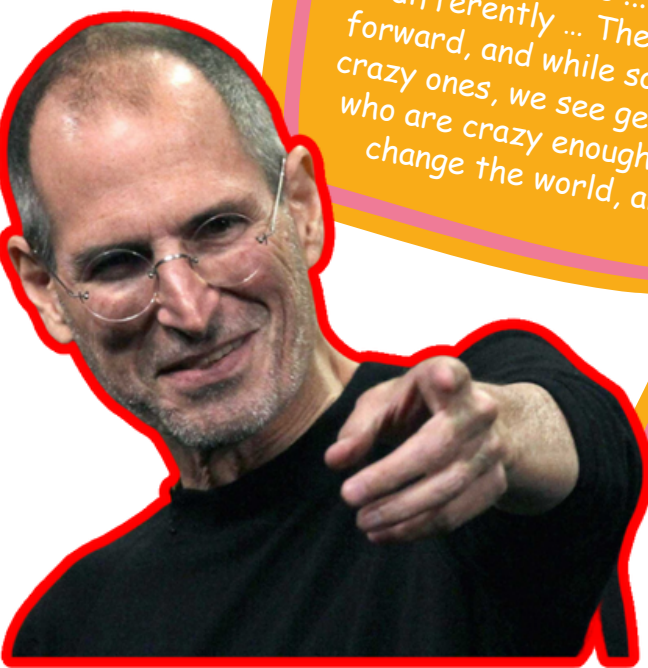
"My dyslexic thinking means I don't just think outside the box, I think outside the planet!"



Steve Jobs

Technologist & Entrepreneur

From his early days in elementary school, Steve Jobs had difficulty functioning in a traditional classroom, struggling through school. When he was 13, Jobs was given a summer job by Bill Hewlett (of Hewlett-Packard). He dropped out of college, after just one semester. But this didn't stop him from co-founding and becoming the CEO of one of the world's most innovative technological companies- Apple.



Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes ... the ones who see things differently ... They push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do."

Dr. Beryl Benacerraf

Radiologist and Professor of Obstetrics,
Gynecology and Reproductive Biology

Dr. Beryl Benacerraf faced many difficulties during her school years, but she remained determined and found a clever way to overcome them. Whenever she knew she'd have to read aloud in class, she'd count the number of students ahead of her to figure out which paragraph she'd be asked to read. Then, she'd practice that paragraph again and again until she became a pro at it. Benacerraf revolutionized the field of prenatal ultrasound to diagnose foetal abnormalities including Down syndrome, which has saved millions of lives across the world.



"Radiology is where I belonged. I live in a world of patterns and images and I see things that no one else sees. Anomalies jump out at me like a neon sign."

Sir Richard Branson

Entrepreneur

As a young student, Richard Branson struggled with dyslexia. He had a hard time keeping up with his classes, and said “back when I was in school, few people understood Dyslexia... My teachers thought I was lazy and not very clever, and I got bored easily.” He was forced to drop out of school at age 15. In fact, his school headmaster once told him that he “would either end up in prison or become a millionaire”. But what was perceived as a weakness soon became a source of strength. He started his first business at age 15, and is today the co-founder of Virgin Group (which includes over 250 companies).

"Dyslexic thinking is a skill that can give you the edge at work: you're likely to have strong problem-solving skills, a great imagination and creative, big-picture thinking. I'm proud to be a dyslexic thinker."



INCLUSION FOR INNOVATION

There are many more dyslexic minds that have changed our world. Yet, almost 20% of students around the world struggle with a learning disability, unable to discover their hidden brilliance.

By recognizing their unique strengths and providing support, we can create a world where they can thrive and contribute to growth and innovation.

With just a touch of gentle guidance, inclusive teaching, and lots of support you can be a change leader and help them blossom into the geniuses they truly are.

At ChangeInkk Foundation, we strongly believe that for India to become a \$10 trillion economy, contributions of individuals with Specific Learning Disabilities is a must. After all, 40% of the world's self-made millionaires have a learning disability, like Dyslexia, and #DyslexicThinking has powered most innovations that have changed our world!

So, we are working hard to #Speak4Dyslexia, raising awareness around the many strengths of dyslexic minds. Through innovative programs, advocacy and capacity-building initiatives, we are #ChangeInkkTheConversation to actively build inclusive ecosystems that support them- from cradle to career.

We engage closely with individuals, parents, educators, employers, policy makers, and civil society, to mainstreaming inclusion in schools, higher education and workplaces, where individuals with SLDs can thrive.



changeinkk.org

For more information about ChangeInkk and our initiatives, visit www.changeinkk.org or write to us on info@changeinkk.org