

# INTERVENTION & CONNECTION

Christine Alm, co-founder of Dyslexia Road, provides resources for families affected by dyslexia

**When mom of** four Christine Alm's kids were diagnosed with dyslexia, it started them on a journey familiar to many families before them.

Alm, who began her career in the nonprofit sector with The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research before going on to work at Gerson Lehrman Group and later what is now LaneTerralover, says that many parents who are helping their kids navigate dyslexia have no background in neuropsychology, education or disability advocacy. And in an area where early identification and intervention is so important, there's no time to waste.

This was just one factor that inspired her, Christi Brink, Maggie Freeman and Colleen Luke, also mothers of children with dyslexia, to start their nonprofit, Dyslexia Road ([www.dyslexiaroad.org](http://www.dyslexiaroad.org)).

"Even though we had each other to lean on, we still found it overwhelming to navigate our kids' respective diagnoses, school accommodations, and treatment plans. Our goal was to centralize the information on our website and connect parents with a community who has dealt with similar circumstances."

Her experiences, Alm says, have helped her realize just what kind of limitations are imposed on children, especially in a school system that tends to prioritize students who fit a certain mold of success. "This approach can be restrictive and does not account for the unique qualities that individuals with dyslexia possess, such as being quick and creative thinkers, empathetic, and resilient."

At the end of the day, it's about making sure children with dyslexia receive prompt diagnoses – dyslexia can be identified with over 90% accuracy before age 6 – and the resources they need to keep up with their peers, especially around third grade, when students transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

"We aren't actually pioneering anything. We know what dyslexia is. We know it affects 20% of the population. We know kids need early, science-based intervention. We have the information, we just have to act on it," Alm says. "There is power and strength in numbers. The Dyslexia Road community is growing, and the more people we can educate, the more we can unleash the potential in this extraordinary community."

BY KAYLOR JONES / PHOTO BY CLAUDIA JOHNSTONE

