

Danks Davis Dyslexia Tutoring

What claims does the company make / what does the programme target?

The programme claims to target spelling as the key target for literary success. It is claimed that gains should be seen in listening skills, comprehension, oral language, spelling, writing and reading. It is also claimed that gains may be seen in coding, digit span, and processing speed tasks as measured by the WISC-IV.

It is purportedly founded on educational research, but no specific research findings are mentioned.

Evidence for efficacy:

There appear to be no refereed studies investigating Danks Davis tutoring. All that is available in support of the method's efficacy is extracts from five educational psychologists' reports showing improvements after Danks Davis tutoring presented on the programme's website at <http://www.danksdavidyslexia.com/index.php?id=4>.

Evidence against efficacy:

There is no evidence that the Danks Davis programme is effective. It is not legitimate to infer from this that the programme does not work, but it cannot presently be recommended as an evidence-based programme.

Price:

The cost to purchase the Danks Davis manual and DVD is NZD \$3000.00 + GST.

What it involves:

NB: not to be confused with the Davis Dyslexia method.

Developed in New Zealand by Zannie Danks Davis, this programme uses one-on-one weekly 1- hour tutoring sessions to help children with dyslexia learn to spell, read and write. The sessions can be led by tutors, parents, or teachers, but all follow the same seven step method. A full description of the process is not provided to the public, but in summary involves (Danks Davis Dyslexia, n.d.):

Step 1: Brain Gym exercises "to open their learning channels".

Step 2: Assessment to create a list of words the student is unable to spell.

Steps 3 to 6: Multisensory instruction in spelling to learn the words identified in Step 2. Auditory perception problems will also be addressed.

Step 7: Testing to ensure the student has learned the words and understands how to use them.

The programme is based on Danks Davis' views and experience of how dyslexics learn, and (supposedly) on relevant educational research.

References:

Danks Davis Dyslexia. (n.d.). *The Seven Steps for Danks Davis Dyslexia Tutoring*. Retrieved from <http://www.danksdavidyslexia.com/index.php?id=3>.

Website / for more information see:

<http://www.danksdavidyslexia.com/>