

# IDENTIFYING and correcting blocked learning gates

## The Four Learning Gates

***Dianne Craft, MA, CNHP***

*“He’s seven and a half years old, and still can’t read! Will he “grow into” reading if I give him more time?”  
concerned homeschool mom*

*“No parent has ever said to me that they started intervention too early with their child”,  
Sally Shaywitz, MD, Overcoming Dyslexia*

*“Reading and writing are natural processes, and take place easily when no learning  
block is present.” Dianne Craft, HSLDA Learning Specialist*

- I. Maturity Issue?
  - A. Desire to learn
  - B. Alphabet learning
  - C. How did other children in family learn?
  - D. Listening to stories
  - E. Writing and letter reversals?

***There are many bright children who have to work too hard to learn!***

- I. The Brain Model for the Four Learning Gates
  - A. Visual Processing Gate Blocked
    - 1. Reading reversals after age 7 (on=no, was=saw, of=to)
    - 2. Oral reading starts smooth, but becomes more labored
    - 3. Yawning shortly after reading begins
    - 4. Smart kids who don’t want to read (due to eye fatigue)  
*(Correction: 1. Brain Integration Therapy; or 2. Vision Therapy)*
  - B. Visual/Motor (Writing) Gate Blocked
    - 1. Frequent or occasional reversals in letters (b/d) (after age 7)
    - 2. Poor spacing in writing and math papers
    - 3. Writing is slow and laborious
    - 4. Great stories orally, but writes very little
    - 5. Does all math problems mentally to avoid writing down
    - 6. Writing looks sloppy and child is often considered lazy and unmotivated  
*(Correction to this blocked gate is the daily Writing Eight Exercise, and Writing repatterning)*
  - C. Auditory Processing Gate Blocked
    - 1. Phonics sounds don’t stick
    - 2. Sight words hard to memorize (sounds out all words)
    - 3. Spelling rules hard to remember
    - 4. Easily misunderstands verbal information
    - 5. Guesses at long words frequently (forgets words he just sounded out)
    - 6. Can’t remember multiplication facts, difficulty saying months in order  
*(Correction: 1. Right Brain Teaching Strategies; 2. Brain Integration Therapy ;  
3. Essential Fatty Acids and Lecithin)*
  - D. Attention/Focusing/Behavior Gate Blocked

1. Inconsistency in performance from one day to another
2. Needs to have someone sit with him to finish work
3. Forgets previously learned work much of the time
4. Impulsive behavior
5. Easily upset and angered when things go wrong
6. Sensory Integration processing problems (little things bother them a lot, like tags on shirts, loud noises, transitions, etc.)

*(Correction: Nutritional interventions and dietary changes, designed to calm the child's nervous system, and help him focus more easily...very effective...more info Biology of Behavior CD set)*

**II. Levels of Processing Problems**

**A. Glitch**

1. Child has to work harder, but is not behind
2. This does not need intervention, but it would help

**B. Dysfunction**

1. Child has to work harder, and is about a year behind
2. Intervention can get this child caught up easily

**C. Dyslexia or Dysgraphia**

1. Child has to work harder and is about two years behind
2. Intervention is vital to help this child learn

\*HSLDA's new website: "Homeschooling the Struggling Learner", has the four learning gates, their characteristics, and more importantly, the interventions that a parent can use to help their child get past the learning block. This information packed website is a Godsend for homeschooling families. [www.hsllda.org/strugglinglearner](http://www.hsllda.org/strugglinglearner) Join HSLDA and experience all the benefits for your struggling learner!

Dianne offers private consultations for homeschool families in Denver. As an educator and nutritionist, she can give help to families in unique ways. She also has many teaching DVD's and Right Brain Teaching product (Right Brain Phonics, Spelling, Math, etc.), and her Brain Integration Therapy manual, on her website, [www.diannecraft.org](http://www.diannecraft.org)

