

In the early days I remember in grade 3 as the other kids were excelling in the 3 r's, I felt like I was being left behind.

I wasn't the only one to make this observation. The other kids and teachers saw it too. This set me up for teasing and bullying from the other kids which made me feel insecure about myself. This has followed through till today.

Fast forward to yrs 8/9 when I had a new start in my new high school. I made a real effort to get ahead in my studies amid teasing and bullying again. By mid year 9 I fell into my old habits and lost interest in being at school. Years 9,10,11,12 passed by and I cruised through just doing the least possible to stay out of trouble and really just going through the motions of schooling life.

At year 10 I realized being an academic was not my lot in life.

Apprentiship and TAFE

A new beginning again.

With a great opportunity as an air-conditioning apprentice, I realized that this was one of my best chances I had of making something of myself.

The diagnosis of Dyslexia from back in grade 5 had caused my failure through school and it had to be put aside through the apprenticeship because of the TAFE coursework component.

For help I went to Tyquin reading clinic.

I could feel the changes after the first session but didn't fully appreciate until the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> hour long session in the first week how much they were helping. Even in these early sessions I was able to increase the amount I was able to read and now I can now read for up to 4 hours at a time. Before, I would struggle to read more than a few lines before losing meaning. I can now read well and can retain the information for the first time in my life.

Week 1 at TAFE – only 10 hours and 2 weeks since starting with Tyquin, I passed my first 2 exams with flying colours for the first time in my life. This felt extraordinary especially as only 6/20 students passed that exam. I got 90%. My next exam I got 100% - the first time in my life!

I can now study 2, 3 even 4 hours at a time and retain the work that I have covered.

TAFE education is now good and my future is looking bright.

Message to other struggling TAFE students

Call the team at Tyquin reading clinic.

Ryan Braatvedt  
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*Dictated and transcribed to assist. Ed*