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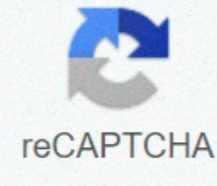
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Visualizing and verbalizing stories

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If you linger in one of the hyperlexia parent groups, then you might have seen the terms Bell or visualize and verbalize come on a fairly regular basis, especially in discussions regarding reading comprehension. Questions like... Has anyone tried the Lindamood Bell and how did it work for your family? Do visualization and verbalization work? Well, I'm here to hopefully answer most - if not all - of these questions. Because I have a pretty indepth review of the Lindamood Bell Visualization Visualization Verbalizing kit for you below. Gander Publishing provided me with a copy of the visualization and verbalization kit to review and try with my son. In particular, they sent us the homeschool package. All opinions are mine and 100% honest. What is visualization and verbalization? The Lindamood Bell visualization and verbalization program is designed to help improve language comprehension by constructing conceptual images. I have described it in more detail here. But I'll guess you already know a little about what it is if you're already here reading a full review of it... So let's dive! Things I like about viewing and verbalizing This is the part where I help you understand whether or not the visualization and verbalization kit will be the right fit for you. Because you're wondering if it's worth it or not, right? 1. Hyperlexia is actually mentioned in the teacher's manual Ok this may seem a stupid thing to be excited about, but you know what? I was. You see, there aren't many books on hyperlexia available so to see the word hyperlexia in print, several times, got me beyond excited to dive into this program with my son. Before I received our kit in the mail, I sometimes found an older version of the teacher's manual at our local library. I read through a good part of it before our kit arrived, but one of the main differences I noticed right away between the two versions is that hyperlexia was actually mentioned! So even if you just want a better understanding of what hyperlexia is, this teacher's manual is a great reference to help you learn more about how hyperlexic children learn. And honestly, this whole program seems to be designed with hyperlexic learners in mind. PS: you can actually check out an example chapter of the teacher's manual for free here. So a quick recap of this point: Hyperlexia is actually recognized in the teacher's manual, making it one of the few books that actually mention the term. The teacher's manual is an excellent reference to better understand what hyperlexia is, why they struggle with understanding, and what these struggles look like. 2. I like the progress of the program There are 10 steps in the visualization and verbalization program and each step allows you to take advantage of the skills of the previous step. And even the structure word numbering system helps students move from the whole to the parts (p. 67 of the teacher's manual) instead of dealing with the wrong details first. I wrote more about structural words here. We are currently still somewhere in the middle, working hard to build a solid foundation before moving on to the next steps where things get a little more complex. One of the first steps is the Image to Image step, which you can see us practicing here: Here is a quick summary of this point: The program moves in a logical and direct way. Direct. The step allows you to take advantage of the skills of the previous step while increasing complexity. 3. I can implement it myself at home The program is simple to implement on your own at home. However, it is highly recommended that you register first for the training workshops to ensure that you are implementing the program correctly. I think you even get the full program package if you sign up for a workshop. Check out the schedule for the upcoming workshop You can also attend a specialized Lindamood Bell centre or find a local speech therapist who knows how to view and verbalize if you prefer. However, my understanding is that these options may not be available to you for a variety of reasons. Maybe there is no centre nearby. Perhaps the ongoing cost of participating in a specialized centre is not financially feasible. Perhaps there is no speech therapist near you trained in the program. Fortunately, the program is easy to understand and very systematic so you can implement it at home. The kit even comes with all the important materials you need to get started anyway. I did however have to do a few things myself to complete the homeschool package like the colored squares needed for the sentence-by-step imaging phrase. As there is no Lindamood Bell centre near me, we have implemented home visualization and verbalization by myself. It allows us more flexibility in terms of education rates and allows us to work at our own pace and in an environment where my son is more comfortable. Here is a quick recap of this and related elements: there are online training workshops that you can attend to learn how to implement the program. Online training workshops also include the full kit in the price. The program is easy to understand and easy to implement at home yourself. There are many professionals trained in the use of visualization and verbalization and you can attend specialized centers if interested. The kit comes with everything you need to get started. The teacher's manual provides examples of how to implement each step. There are many speech therapists and professionals experienced in visualization and verbalization and there could be a local professional near you who is familiar with it (there was for us!). 4. It Seems to Work But the Most Important: Does Visualization and Verbalization Really Work to Improve Language Understanding? Well, let's take a look what the research says and whether or not it seems to reflect our experiences so far. The program has significantly improved the reading comprehension skills of students who have been exposed to the intervention, and they have developed a more positive attitude and motivation for tasks that require an understanding of reading. - Fakhreddine (2013), interesting source, we have noticed the increased motivation and positive attitude already we did not do the program as aggressive as what was done in that research. And that's actually something I mentioned on Instagram recently. So when I read this passage, I said, YES! That's what we saw! The visualization and verbalization program also: seems useful in improving vocabulary and oral comprehension skills in children with $40,000 - Lemelman (2014), source Improved comprehension and vocabulary is always a good thing, isn't it? However, some studies suggest that visualizing and verbalizing is not necessarily better than other comprehension programs. For example: Students also seemed to benefit from visualization and verbalization training and training in traditional comprehension - Dixon et al. (2001), source I also saw a more recent study with similar results, but of course I can't seem to locate this article now... So while visualizing and verbalizing is good at what it's supposed to do (improving language comprehension), it's not necessarily the only option available to you, at least according to some of the research I've read. You can also find a lot of research support for the program on the Lindamood Bell website, but I'm still poking fun at the research compiled by the company to be honest. They offer a handy guide with research summaries in it if you're interested, but I won't link to it (see my previous comment as to why). So let's recap this point: visualization and verbalization are supported by research. It has been found to significantly improve reading comprehension skills. Children who have used visualization and verbalization develop a more positive attitude and see an increase in motivation for reading comprehension tasks. This program was found to improve vocabulary and oral comprehension skills in children with autism. Some other highlights of the Lindamood Bell visualization and verbalization program Here are some other positives to know about the program: Can be used in groups as well as in one-on-one teaching Adopts a multisensory approach Offers a lot of visual aids and supports (p. e.g., stones, colored squares, and structure word cards) Includes clear lesson examples for each step of the process You can buy the complete kit, a homeschool size package, and/or even individual parts You can frequently find sales on kits on the Gander Edition website Things I don't like about viewing and viewing (so far) Like most things, the visualization and verbalization kit is not perfect. There are a number of things I don't like about the program so far, but the positives certainly outweigh any of the negatives I list below. 1. The cost of the program The visualization and verbalization kit is expensive and I understand why, but the price is a huge turn off for many families. Fortunately, they offer a homeschool package that is a little more affordable and they they have sales on the kits. Here's a look at the homeschool package (no photo is a storybook or tracking sheet; the colored squares are not part of the package - I made those): The visualization and verbalization kit is not easy to find here in Canada, which means that exchange rates and potential fee fees must be taken into account when ordering the kit. For reference, I was hit with a fee of nearly $80 when the homeschool package arrived. So to sum up ... It is even more expensive to attend a specialized centre or to rent the training and implementation of the program. If you live in Canada, be prepared to be hit by fairly high tariffs or duties. 2. Some of the stories are dated and boring The kit we were given includes a storybook called Imagine That! Stories. The back of the books says: These true stories about unique people, animals, mysteries, and more are sure to interest students of all ages. But unfortunately, my son and I found these stories a little dated and boring. Here's why we didn't like them: The stories are boring and my son absolutely hates them. Some stories seem like they were written in the 70s or something because some of the topics are just weird or inappropriate (like the story of a chimpanzee smoking cigarettes). The content of the stories doesn't seem relevant or interesting to a child in 2019 (he asked me where all the stories were about dinosaurs, planets and video games). There are many stories with an American theme (something a Canadian child has trouble understanding). However, the book Visualizing and Verbalizing Stories included in our kit was a much better fit. The stories are more engaging and interesting and my son seems to enjoy these stories instead. So I would just personally jump the Imagine That! History books. Here's a quick summary of this point: Some of the stories desperately need a little refreshing to make sure they're relevant to today's kids. Some stories are just boring and my son hated them. Some other weaknesses Here are some other things I don't like about the visualization and verbalization kit that deserve to be mentioned: No digital version available (and really there's no reason why there shouldn't be) May be difficult to determine when to take the next step Recommended training rate is intense and requires a big time commitment Just to reiterate , we are only halfway in the program, but so far I am a great of it. It worked wonders for my son and we saw a lot of positive changes in the short time we implemented. He's excited to read again. It is all of a sudden binge reading books at a fast pace. And his last comprehension test at school showed a huge improvement. So yes, I highly recommend the visualization and verbalization kit to work on understanding with hyperlexic hyperlexic Is it better than other comprehension programs out there? I don't know, but I don't intend to look for alternatives at this point. Ready to try the visualization and verbalization kit to improve language comprehension? Major accessories for you if you read each word above. I mean it was a pretty thorough review, huh? But investing in a program like this is a big deal. You have no idea how long I've been wondering about buying this kit myself... (hint: at least a few years). So I hope my review above helped you make your decision, even just a little bit. Ready to take the plunge? Click on one of the images or links below to buy your own copy of the visualization and verbalization kit. Still not sure? It's good, too. I know it is a significant financial and time commitment. However, I encourage you to take at least some time to view the free sample chapter of the teacher's manual. It will give you a better idea of what to expect. You can download the free example chapter here. Or you can go through my V/V Summary of the history of the program on my Instagram account to see all the materials, as well as some additional photos and videos of the program in action. Married to her high school sweetheart, Dyan is a Canadian stay-at-home mother of two boys, J and K. She is also a part-time piano teacher. She enjoys board games, video games, instant pots and reading. To stay connected, subscribe to the weekly newsletter to get a copy of the free weekly autism planner and follow it on social media. Media.