



Early Childhood Educator Stacey Rosenberg, DDCDA Founder Danielle Rosenberg and her son Gabriel at the February 22, 2025 Panthers vs the Seattle Kraken game

## ALL IN FOR EDUCATION!!

We attended the January Nassau/Suffolk County School Board Association Annual Conference on January 23, 2025. Danielle Rosenberg and her husband Sidney hosted our booth. It was a wonderful opportunity to spread awareness!

We were also interviewed by Bob Vecchio on the "Spotlight on Long Island Education" radio show on March 8, 2025. Volunteers Lisa Holm and Mary Pritchard spoke with Bob about how Dyspraxia/DCD affects students in the classroom. To listen, find the link on the News page of our website, OR scan the QR code.



## Florida Panthers Hockey Team Hosted a Special Recognition of Dyspraxia/DCD!

It was a great honor that the Florida Panthers partnered with us to spotlight Dyspraxia/DCD awareness during the February 22, 2025 game versus the Seattle Kraken. A short video featuring Gabriel Rosenberg, our founder's son who has Dyspraxia, and Stacey Rosenberg (no relation), his pre-K teacher, was shown on the jumbotron (scan the QR code below to watch)!



Gabriel has come a long way on his journey with Dyspraxia/DCD and now even plays basketball on his high school team! In addition to lots of practice and perseverance, he credits his progress to dedicated and supportive teachers like Stacey, who took the time to understand his unique challenges. Stacey is currently the Director of the Betty and Marvin Zale Early Childhood Learning Center in Boca Rotan, Florida.

On behalf of the entire community affected by Dyspraxia/DCD, we thank the Florida Panthers Foundation for their commitment to raising awareness and their extraordinarily generous donation. Their support and partnership will have a profound impact on our ability to provide effective resources for the community we serve.

## "How-To" Links on Website!

Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK created a free video library called "**Watch me do it**" to help children with Dyspraxia/DCD learn tasks like zipping, cutting, and tying shoelaces! Watching demonstrations that MATCH WHAT THEY SEE when performing tasks helps them learn these skills. A new link to the videos is on our Resource pages.



## Ask DDCDA

### How Common is Dyspraxia/DCD?

Dyspraxia/DCD affects 5 to 6% of children (Blank et al., 2019). This means that more than 1 in 20 Americans are affected and every classroom is likely to have at least one student with Dyspraxia/DCD. Despite being almost as common as ADHD and more common than Autism, it is unfamiliar to many parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals. Our mission is to increase awareness so that individuals with Dyspraxia/DCD receive the support they need to reach their full potential.

Blank R, Barnett AL, Cairney et al. (2019). International clinical practice recommendations on the definition, diagnosis, assessment, intervention, and psychosocial aspects of developmental coordination disorder. Dev Med Child Neurol., 61:242-85.



## It May Not Be An Attitude Problem

### Recognizing Signs of Dyspraxia/DCD in the Classroom

By Lisa Holm, Volunteer Director of Education Advocacy

Have you encountered a student like Michael? As he moves around the classroom, Michael often trips and bumps into classmates. Managing his backpack is an ordeal for him. Michael frequently has missing assignments, his desk is a hot mess, his writing is illegible, and he sometimes struggles to keep up with his peers. Michael doesn't follow directions and is usually the last person in line. His teacher continually reminds him to sit up in his chair, and bites her tongue when Michael falls out of his seat yet again. Time after time, his teacher wonders why Michael just won't do what he's supposed to do. Maybe Michael can't meet his teacher's expectations.

Michael may be one of approximately 3,000,000 US school-age students with a lifelong hidden disability known as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD). DCD, commonly known as Dyspraxia, is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects fine and/or gross motor skills, including motor planning and execution. Dyspraxia/DCD does not affect intelligence, but it can affect the ability to keep in school and make learning more challenging compared to peers. Each person with Dyspraxia/DCD has different challenges and abilities. Students with Dyspraxia/DCD work hard both physically and cognitively to accomplish tasks and often take longer than their peers to master new skills. This may lead to frustration, fatigue, irritability, anxiety, and/or acting out.

Learn more about students with Dyspraxia/DCD and how to support them at [dyspraxiadcdamerica.org](http://dyspraxiadcdamerica.org).

## In The News

### Ongoing Federal Legislative Efforts

Representatives Mike Lawler and Josh Gottheimer introduced 2 bipartisan resolutions to support the millions of Americans with Dyspraxia/DCD in 2024, including House Resolution (H.R.) 1356 designating **National Dyspraxia/DCD Awareness Week** and H.R. 9975, the **Gabriel Rosenberg Dyspraxia/DCD Coverage Act**. H.R. 9975 would establish a study on current insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment and identify barriers to coverage. The bill holds special significance for our organization. Gabriel, son of the founders of Dyspraxia DCD America, was diagnosed with Dyspraxia early in life. Thanks to early diagnosis and access to essential services, he has overcome significant challenges.

Unfortunately, this legislation was not taken up by the 118th Congress and will be re-introduced this year. We remain grateful to the bipartisan support of Representatives Lawler and Gottheimer for their continued efforts to pass this legislation which will be invaluable to those struggling with Dyspraxia/DCD in the US. We will continue to update you on progress!

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our donors as we advance our mission to raise awareness and provide resources for those affected by Dyspraxia/DCD. We're proud of what our small group of volunteers has accomplished thus far, but there's so much more to do. As we forge ahead, your continued support and collaboration remain invaluable. Together, we can make a lasting impact by promoting understanding and ensuring that individuals with Dyspraxia/DCD receive the understanding and support they deserve.



[www.DyspraxiaDCDAmerica.org](http://www.DyspraxiaDCDAmerica.org)

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