

Book raises dyslexia awareness

By Forrest Sellers • fsellers@communitypress.com • September 10, 2009

First-time author Shelley Ball-Dannenberg's book shows the successes that can arise from a disability.

Ball-Dannenberg along with her daughter, Delaney, 9, has written a children's book about dyslexia titled "I Have Dyslexia. What Does That Mean?"

"It is a portrait of what it is like for a young child to have dyslexia," said Ball-Dannenberg, a former English instructor and founder and president of Dyslexia Testing and Information Services.

Ball-Dannenberg, 41, said the content for the book came from listening to Delaney, who was diagnosed with dyslexia in the first-grade, talking to friends and teachers about her experiences.

"She describes her frustrations, but also her successes through tutoring," said Ball-Dannenberg, who is a resident of Hyde Park.

Ball-Dannenberg said research by the National Institutes of Health have shown one in five people have dyslexia.

"I hope to use the book to raise awareness," she said.

Amy Arnold, a private tutor and friend of Ball-Dannenberg, said she recently shared the book with a student of hers who has dyslexia.

"After she read it, she was smiling from ear to ear," said Arnold. "She said this book summarizes everything (she had) been through."

Arnold said the book not only shows children with dyslexia that they are not alone, but it also "opens the door for parents, teachers and students to talk about dyslexia and other learning disabilities."

Arnold is a resident of Milford.

"I Have Dyslexia. What Does That Mean?" is available through Amazon or visit the Web site www.dtisinfo.com.