The DORE Program

There is only one study that has been published in professional scientific (peer-reviewed) journals on this program. This study examined only children with reading problems, so that there is no research available for other disorders such as ADD/ADHD and dyspraxia.

The published study looked at 35 children in an English school. Half the children were given the treatment program, and half were not.

The study has been strongly criticised with many authors drawing the conclusion that it is not scientifically valid. Some of the criticisms include:

**The children they studied**

1. The treated group of children had only minor reading problems before the treatment began. Some tests of literacy were actually better than average so it is questionable whether it could be stated they had reading difficulties at all.
2. The control (non-treatment) group were already almost average readers so over the 6 months treatment period they had less to catch up.
3. Both groups did not have major problems in the cerebellar tests of eye movement and balance before the research began.

**The way they did their research**

1. The study was not blinded. This means that those who had the intervention knew they were being treated. The children being treated may have been more motivated.
2. The intervention was not controlled, so that increased attention would have been given to the treatment group of children from the daily interventions. It is usual in research to have a ‘control’ treatment where the non-treatment group gets something to balance the treatment rather than nothing at all.
3. The two groups were not the same. The control group read considerably better than the treatment group from the outset.
4. Neither group was compared to normally developing children without reading problems.
5. Changes in academic standardised results for the control group were not reported.
6. When the tests of reading were measured in a standard way, the only reading improvements for the treatment group (who were worse to begin with) were in number of words read in one minute. The difference between groups was not very much, although it was statistically significant. There was no difference in all other tests of reading.

**Conclusion**

Based on this single and only published research study, the evidence that the DORE program improves cerebellar function or improves reading is very weak. The claims made in their promotional material should be regarded with considerable caution.

**References to the articles used for this information sheet are on the next page.**
References – All from the journal ‘Dyslexia’.

The original article


Published criticisms of the research


The authors responses to criticisms
