# Bookshare Helps Student with Dyslexia Become Avid Reader

Bookshare: A Benetech Global Literacy Initiative.

[A family sits at a table playing a game with numbered tiles]

I’m proud of my children. The most important thing to me, is being a mom.

[The family continues to play the game.]

My children like to say that I'm a “mamarazzi” because I keep taking pictures of them, and it's because I feel proud of them.

[We see a series of photos of Jose reading.]

And for me it was very important to put this with the family pictures that I take because this has been a huge step for him.

My name is Lola Alvarez. I'm Jose Alvarez's mom, and Jose is 10 years old.

Jose had a lot of trouble identifying vowels and letters. He had a lot of trouble reading small three or four letter words. Often he would confuse a d with a b or a p with a q.

I would look at a book and I would get confused with certain words. I would say words that don’t even make any sense. It’s really frustrating, ’cause all my friends could read and I couldn’t.

He received the diagnosis of dyslexia at the end of second grade.

One day when I came home, my mom said Ms. Henkels gave me an app, a reading app to help. And she told me it was Bookshare. And then when I started reading, I just didn’t want to stop. I read 100 and something pages in one day.

Bookshare is a digital library for people with learning or visual problems that helps as a resource for people who are interested in books, to be able to read them.

[Jose reads a book on his tablet using an app called Read2Go].

It reads it to me but you can follow along, and while it’s doing that, I’m also reading the words. It’s helping me read.

I was very anxious knowing that he could have the same problems I had growing up and have the same anxiety at school and not wanting to go to school.

When I was little, I was diagnosed with dyslexia, but the difference is that in Mexico where I grew up, having a learning difference is not something that is seen well.

Part of Hispanic culture is not talking about what you have. For example, like dyslexia or any illness because if you don't talk about it then it doesn't exist. For me,

it's very important, especially for this new generation that's coming up with learning problems, that the parents provide support for their children.

When Jose got Bookshare,that was the best thing that could have happened to him because he doesn't depend on anyone to read him a book anymore. Jose will use Bookshare for the rest of his life.

Dyslexia, it’s just like I don’t even have it. I’m succeeding in reading and I’m happy about that.

Bookshare: A Benetech Global Literacy Initiative. Visit us at [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org).