



Dyslexia is:

- A language-processing disorder that also impacts directionality and the ability to memorize random facts. Dyslexia is inherited. Warning signs of dyslexia start to appear as early as age 1. A child can be accurately tested for dyslexia as early as age 5.
- It is NOT rare. It affects 20% of our population, which is 1 out of 5.
It is the most common reason a child will struggle with spelling, writing, and eventually with reading.
- Children with dyslexia CAN read.
But they have to use different strategies.
Those strategies will fail them by third to fourth grade, if not sooner.
- The National Institutes of Health has been studying dyslexia for more than 25 years. Here is the research-based definition:

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin.

It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, and by poor spelling and decoding abilities.

These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.

Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

- The reading, spelling and writing failure caused by dyslexia is preventable – and fixable – by teaching them using an Orton-Gillingham-based system.

To learn more:

Read: *Overcoming Dyslexia* by Dr. Sally Shaywitz

Visit: www.BrightSolutions.US or www.BartonReading.com

Warning Signs of Dyslexia

If a child has 3 or more of the following warning signs, encourage that child's parents and teachers to learn more about dyslexia.

In Preschool

- delayed speech
- mixing up the sounds and syllables in long words
- chronic ear infections
- severe reactions to childhood illnesses
- constant confusion of left versus right
- late establishing a dominant hand
- difficulty learning to tie shoes
- trouble memorizing their address, phone number, or the alphabet
- can't create words that rhyme
- a close relative with dyslexia

In Elementary School

- dysgraphia (slow, non-automatic handwriting that is difficult to read)
- letter or number reversals continuing past the end of first grade
- extreme difficulty learning cursive
- slow, choppy, inaccurate reading:
 - guesses based on shape or context
 - skips or misreads prepositions (at, to, of)
 - ignores suffixes
 - can't sound out unknown words
- terrible spelling
- often can't remember sight words (they, were, does) or homonyms (their, they're, and there)
- difficulty telling time with a clock with hands
- trouble with math
 - memorizing multiplication tables
 - memorizing a sequence of steps
 - directionality
- when speaking, difficulty finding the correct word
 - lots of "whatyamacallits" and "thingies"
 - common sayings come out slightly twisted
- extremely messy bedroom, backpack, and desk
- dreads going to school
 - complains of stomach aches or headaches
 - may have nightmares about school

In High School

All of the above symptoms plus:

- limited vocabulary
- extremely poor written expression
 - large discrepancy between verbal skills and written compositions
- unable to master a foreign language
- difficulty reading printed music
- poor grades in many classes
- may drop out of high school

In Adults

Education history similar to above, plus:

- slow reader
- may have to read a page 2 or 3 times to understand it
- terrible speller
- difficulty putting thoughts onto paper
 - dreads writing memos or letters
- still has difficulty with right versus left
- often gets lost, even in a familiar city
- sometimes confuses b and d, especially when tired or sick

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