

Warning Signs of Dyslexia

There may be a variety of reasons a student struggles academically. Challenges may exist due to vision, hearing, or language processing differences, or a learning disability. If a student has normal to high intelligence, but an unexpectedly low reading ability, it could be dyslexia. If a student is dyslexic, their academic struggles begin in pre-school and are amplified in middle and high school, often causing them to fall behind academically.

If three or more of the traits below are checked, it could be dyslexia.

Preschool

- Delayed Speech
- Mixing up the sounds and syllables in long words
- Chronic ear infections
- Stuttering
- Constant confusion between 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

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, for, from)
 - Ignores suffixes
 - Can't sound out unknown words
- Terrible spelling
- Often can't remember sight words (they, were, does) or homonyms (their, they're, there)
- Trouble with math
 - Memorizing multiplication facts
 - Memorizing a sequence of steps
 - Directionality

- When speaking, difficulty finding the correct word
 - Lots of “whatyamacallits” and “thingies”
 - Common sayings come out slightly twisted
- Messy bedroom, backpack and desk
- Dreads going to school
 - Complains of stomach ache or headaches
 - May have nightmares about school

High School

All of the above symptoms plus:

- Limited vocabulary
- Poor written expression
 - Large discrepancy between verbal skills and written composition
- Unable to master a foreign language
- Difficulty reading printed music
- Poor grades in many classes, despite above average intelligence
- May drop out of high school

Adults

Education history similar to above, plus:

- Slow reader
- May have to read a page 2 to 3 times to understand it
- Poor speller
- Difficulty putting thoughts onto paper
 - Dreads writing memos or letters
- May still have difficulty with right versus left
- Often gets lost
- Sometimes confuses b and d, especially when tired or sick

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It could be Dyslexia. Dyslexia is the most common and most carefully studied of all learning disabilities. According to Dr. Sally Shaywitz, Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity, dyslexia accounts for 80-90% of all learning disabilities. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Summary Report in 1994, shows that dyslexia is the most common learning disability, affecting at least 20 percent (1 in 5), of our population, with varying degrees of severity. Dyslexia is the most researched of all learning disabilities and is the leading cause of reading failure and school dropouts in our nation.

For more information on how we can help the struggling student, or dyslexic, see our contact information below.