

Dyslexia

The National Centre for Learning Disabilities

www.nclld.org/types-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/what-is-dyslexia

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia at a Glance:

- Dyslexia is the name for specific learning disabilities in reading.
- Dyslexia is often characterized by difficulties with accurate word recognition, decoding and spelling.
- Dyslexia may cause problems with reading comprehension and slow down vocabulary growth.
- Dyslexia may result in poor reading fluency and reading out loud.
- Dyslexia is neurological and often genetic.
- Dyslexia is not the result of poor instruction.
- With the proper support, almost all people with dyslexia can become good readers and writers.

As with other learning disabilities dyslexia is a lifelong challenge that people are born with. This language processing disorder can hinder reading writing spelling and sometimes even speaking.

Dyslexia is not a sign of poor intelligence or laziness. It is also not the result of impaired vision. Children and adults with dyslexia simply have a neurological disorder that causes their brains to process and interpret information differently.

Dyslexia occurs among people of all economic and ethnic backgrounds. Often more than one member of a family has dyslexia. According to the National Institute of Child and Human Development, as many as 15% of Americans have trouble with reading.

Much of what happens in a classroom is based on reading and writing. So it is important to identify dyslexia as early as possible. Using alternate methods people with dyslexia can achieve success.

What Are the Effects of Dyslexia?

Dyslexia can affect people differently. This depends, in part, upon the severity of the learning disability and the success of alternate learning methods. Some with dyslexia can have trouble with reading and spelling, while others struggle to write, or to tell left from right. Some children show few signs of difficulty with early reading and writing. But later on they may have trouble with complex language skills, such as grammar, reading comprehension and more in-depth writing.

Dyslexia can also make it difficult for people to express themselves clearly. It can be hard for them to use vocabulary and to structure their thoughts during conversation. Others struggle to understand when people speak to them. This is not due to hearing problems. Instead it is from trouble processing verbal information. It becomes even harder with abstract thoughts and non- literal language, such as jokes and proverbs.

All of these effects can have a big impact on a person's self-image. Without help, children often get frustrated with learning. The stress of dealing with schoolwork often makes children with dyslexia lose the motivation to continue and overcome the hurdles they face.

What Are the Signs of Dyslexia?

The following are common signs of dyslexia in people of different ages

Young Children Trouble With:

- Recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds and blending sounds into speech
- Pronouncing words, for example saying “mawn lower” instead of “lawn mower”
- Learning and correctly using new vocabulary words
- Learning the alphabet, numbers, and days of the week or similar common word sequences
- Rhyming

School-Age Children Trouble With:

- Mastering the rules of spelling
- Remembering facts and numbers
- Handwriting or with gripping a pencil
- Learning and understanding new skills; instead, relying heavily on memorization
- Reading and spelling, such as reversing letters (d, b) or moving letters around (left, felt)
- Following a sequence of directions
- Trouble with word problems in math

Teenagers and Adults Trouble With:

- Reading at the expected level
- Understanding non-literal language, such as idioms, jokes, or proverbs
- Reading aloud
- Organizing and managing time
- Trouble summarizing a story
- Learning a foreign language
- Memorizing