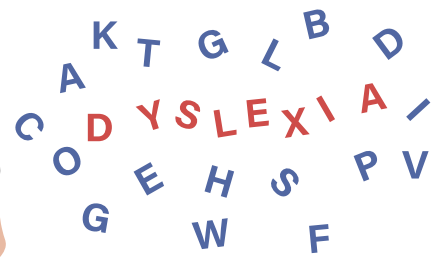


SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA

Preschool to High School + Accommodations

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SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA

Preschool

- > Late talker
- > Chronic ear infections
- > Confusion learning left and right
- > Ambidexterity
- > Difficulty learning to tie shoes
- > Trouble with rhymes
- > Trouble memorizing the alphabet or days of the week
- > Difficulty understanding and following simple (one-step) directions
- > Difficulty learning the connection between letters and sounds
- > Difficulty with cause and effect, sequencing, and counting

Elementary School

- > Messy or illegible handwriting
- > Letter/number reversals
- > Difficulty with cursive writing
- > Slow, choppy, inaccurate reading
- > Often says, "You know what I mean," because of difficulty finding the right word
- > Poor reading of non-words (like those in Dr. Seuss books)
- > Struggles to follow a series of instructions
- > Substitutes sight words for one another (replacing "the" with "he," for example)
- > Difficulty recalling known words

High School

- > Large discrepancy between verbal skills and written correspondence
- > Cannot grasp a foreign language
- > Mispronounces expected words ("tornado" instead of "volcano," or "satisficated" instead of "satisfied")
- > Taking much longer than expected to get through work (even if the result is accurate)
- > Slow to get jokes or understand common idioms
- > Difficulty "getting to the point" when speaking; meanders or goes off on tangents during stories

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SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA Preschool to-High School + Accommodations

Dyslexia is defined as difficulty with spelling and word recognition. While some individuals with dyslexia do read words backward, this learning difference manifests differently in different people; it is complex. Symptoms of dyslexia vary from difficulty breaking down words into syllables to trouble with the accuracy, fluency, and comprehension of the material being read.

When symptoms of dyslexia are unidentified and interventions are missed, it can cause psychological and academic harm. Studies show that when a child's symptoms are identified early, their scores on self-esteem rating scales mirror those of their non-dyslexic counterparts.

Diagnostic tools like the Gray Oral Reading Test can determine if a person has dyslexia. But first parents and teachers must learn the following signs of dyslexia so they can consult a specialist. By age six, you can have a definitive diagnosis, so there is no benefit to waiting.



DANGERS OF UNDIAGNOSED DYSLEXIA

Problems associated with dyslexia at school may leave a person feeling “stupid” or slow and may lead to social isolation. People with ADHD and dyslexia are at high risk for bullying, chronic stress, and physical symptoms. Students with undiagnosed dyslexia say school feels like it's being taught in a foreign language, which can lead to mental health problems. Social symptoms include:

- > Somatic complaints (e.g., headaches, dizziness, or stomachaches)
- > Anxiety (refusal to go to school, dropping out)
- > Mood disorders
- > Learned helplessness

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Specialized, individual instruction can make a difference for students with dyslexia. Many schools use reputable programs such as Wilson, Orton-Gillingham, and Lindamood-Bell. Other accommodations for dyslexia include:

- > Extra time on tests
- > Taped lectures
- > Waived foreign language requirement
- > Notetakers
- > Audio texts (Learning Ally, bookshare, etc.)
- > Speech recognition software (Dragon Naturally Speaking, Google voice dictation)
- > Not required to read out loud in general class
- > Not graded on spelling
- > Ability to do a rough draft
- > Multi-sensory approaches to reading
- > Allowing students to type assignments rather than write them out

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