



## **Dyslexia – Know the Facts!**

**MYTH:** *People with dyslexia see things backwards.*

- **FACT:** People with dyslexia see things just like everyone else. They do not see ‘was’ as ‘saw’ for example. They do have trouble with directionality – for example they may confuse left and right. They often have difficulty finding the right names for things. Although people with dyslexia may write letters and numbers backwards, not all do, and this is considered normal through the end of first grade. Dyslexics actually have trouble processing and manipulating the sounds of language.

**MYTH:** *Dyslexia is rare.*

- **FACT:** Dyslexia affects 5-20% of people, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. The AAP further states that dyslexia is the most common learning disability, accounting for 80% of all learning disabilities.

**MYTH:** *Kids with dyslexia will outgrow it.*

- **FACT:** Kids do not outgrow dyslexia. Dyslexia can be remediated by the right kind of instruction, but symptoms do not go away just because a child grows up. Kids with dyslexia grow up to be adults with dyslexia.

**MYTH:** *Dyslexia could be prevented if parents read to their kids more.*

- **FACT:** Dyslexia is caused by an inherited brain difference, not by something a parent fails to do. According to the AAP, if a parent has dyslexia, there is a 40-50% chance their parent, sibling, or child also has it. No amount of reading aloud will teach a person with dyslexia how to read. People with dyslexia need specific instructional approaches that systematically and sequentially teach the sounds and symbols of our language.