



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, an, the) 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 right 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

Source: Bright Solutions for Dyslexia
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For local help and information, contact:

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