



What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words (decoding). Also known as a reading disability, dyslexia affects areas of the brain that process language.¹ Dyslexia affects 20 percent of the population and represents 80-90% of all those with learning disabilities.² Dyslexia can only be diagnosed by a doctor, but can be treated in many ways.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/dyslexia/symptoms-causes/svc-20353552>

<http://dyslexia.yale.edu/dyslexia/what-is-dyslexia/>

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DYSLEXIA

Characteristics of dyslexia are evident at different times of development. Although there is no cure for dyslexia, early identification and intervention greatly affect the outcome.

Before a child begins school they may display early signs of dyslexia. Signs may include, but are not limited to:

- Late speech language development;
- Trouble remembering colors, letters, and numbers; and
- Difficulty reciting nursery rhymes.

Signs of dyslexia may be more apparent in school age children. Signs may include, but are not limited to:

- Reading far below grade level;
- Trouble recognizing the difference between letters that look similar (e.g., d and b, p and q); and
- Difficulty sounding out words.

Signs of dyslexia in teens and adults may include, but are not limited to:

- Reading far below grade level or age average;
- Inability to read fluently; and
- Deficiencies in comprehension and/or memorization.



TREATMENT



Early diagnosis of dyslexia leads to earlier intervention and support for students.



The use of multisensory techniques can help improve reading skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWBjBq73oR4>



Early reading support may lead to higher rates of reading and writing success.



Learn what accommodations and modifications your student needs to access their learning.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH CHARACTERISTICS OF DYSLEXIA AT SCHOOL

1. Indiana Code 20-35.5 requires all Indiana schools to screen students in grades K-2 for learning characteristics related to dyslexia.
2. Schools must provide students with programing that is systematic, sequential, increases in difficulty over time, and does not assume students have mastered previously taught information. Interventions must be research-based and include the five components of the Science of Reading:
 - Phonemic awareness (e.g., rhyming, blending, counting syllables);
 - Graphophonemic knowledge (e.g., letter-sound relationship);
 - Structure of the English language (e.g., the five main components of language);
 - Reading and writing instruction directed towards proficiency and fluency (e.g., is student-centered and builds upon what students need, already know, and can do); and
 - Strategies for decoding, encoding, word recognition, fluency, and comprehension (e.g., applying sound-symbol recognition when reading).
3. Parents may request that schools provide an evaluation to test for a learning disability if they are concerned about their student's screening results.

RESOURCES

The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity is one of the leading universities spearheading dyslexia research and advocacy. Access this resource [here](#).

Headstrong Nation provides videos, symposiums, and resources for adults and parents of dyslexics. Access this resource [here](#).

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities helps parents design a roadmap to guide their students academic success. The site also gives resources to improve online learning due to COVID-19. Access this resource [here](#).

The International Dyslexia Association supplies support for teachers, parents, and people with characteristics of dyslexia. Access this resource [here](#).

With early identification and proper intervention, students with dyslexia can learn to read, write, and achieve academic success.

Undiagnosed and untreated dyslexia can cause lifelong effects. There are numerous free resources, encouragement groups, and books to help support students exhibiting learning characteristics related to dyslexia.