



SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA

Below you will find a list of common signs of dyslexia. It is important to note that none of these symptoms, in isolation, constitutes a diagnosis of dyslexia. Instead, clusters of symptoms seen over time can indicate that further investigation and/or testing are needed.

In Preschool

- delayed speech
- mixing up the sounds and syllables in long words
- stuttering
- frequent 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
- has 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
- slow, choppy, inaccurate reading:
 - guesses words based on shape, context, and/or first letter
 - skips or misreads prepositions (at, to, of)
 - ignores suffixes
 - can't sound out unknown words
- poor spelling, frequently phonetic (e.g. "sed" for said, "pupe" for puppy, etc.)
- difficulty learning sight words (they, were, does) or homonyms (their, they're, and there)
- difficulty telling time on a clock with hands
- trouble with math
 - memorizing multiplication tables
 - memorizing a sequence of steps
 - directionality

- when speaking, difficulty finding the correct 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 and/or doesn't enjoy reading
- may have to read a page 2 or 3 times to understand it
- terrible speller
- difficulty putting thoughts onto paper - dislikes 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