

dyslexia

Understanding Dyslexia

Dyslexia = *dys* (not or difficult) + *lexia* (words or language)

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. It refers to a cluster of symptoms that result in difficulties with specific language skills, especially word decoding, reading comprehension and/or reading fluency. Dyslexia can be mild or severe.

Dyslexia affects the brain. Specifically, it affects the part of the brain where the sounds are put together to form words and where words are broken down into sounds.

Learning disabilities are not related to IQ.

They do not affect how INTELLIGENT a person is.

A learning disability like dyslexia simply makes it more difficult for a student to learn as easily or quickly.



Not all struggling readers have dyslexia. Reading problems can have other causes such as poor vision or inadequate instruction.

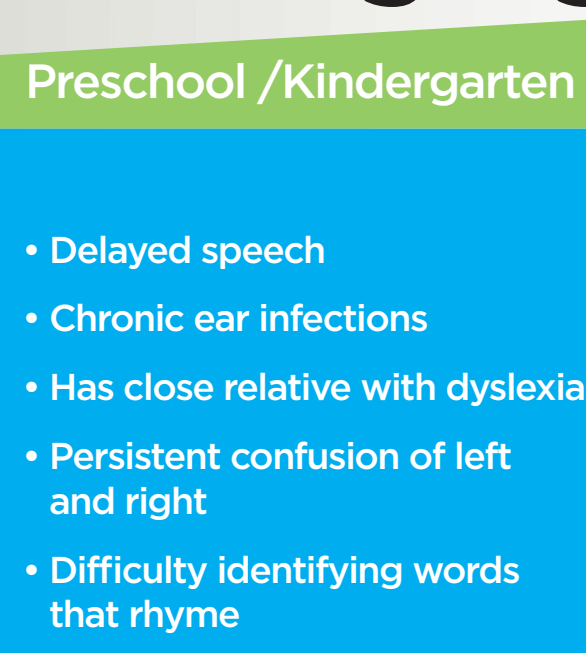
But all dyslexics struggle with reading in one way or another.

The Numbers

1 in 10 kids are dyslexic.



2.9 million children in the U.S. have a specific learning disability. Dyslexia is by far the most common. (And those are only the ones we know about. Many more children struggle with reading and never receive a diagnosis.)



80% of students who are placed in special education for a learning disability have dyslexia.

35% of students with learning disabilities drop out of high school because of long-term difficulties in school.

45% of parents of children with LDs say their child has been bullied in the last year.

Warning Signs of Dyslexia

Preschool /Kindergarten

- Delayed speech
- Chronic ear infections
- Has close relative with dyslexia
- Persistent confusion of left and right
- Difficulty identifying words that rhyme
- Difficulty memorizing the ABCs or home phone number
- Difficulty recognizing that two words—"sandwich" and "sorry," for example—start with the same sound or letter
- Mixes sounds or syllables in long words (such as kindergarten instead of kindergarten)

Elementary/Middle School

- Persistent letter and number reversal after first grade
- Extreme difficulty learning cursive; terrible handwriting
- Slow, awkward, inaccurate reading
- Skips or misreads prepositions and pronouns
- Extreme difficulty sounding out words
- Terrible spelling
- Difficulty reading an analog clock
- In speaking, difficulty with recalling the right word
- Difficulty with memorization (sight words, multiplication steps, directions)
- Difficulty with fluency of language. Some children can read individual words without difficulty, but have problems following words in a sentence or paragraph.

5 Myths About Dyslexia

MYTH: "Dyslexia is something children will outgrow."

FACT: While some children who struggle with reading may be "late-bloomers," children with dyslexia continue to face challenges as readers as they grow.

MYTH: "Dyslexia affects more boys than girls."

FACT: Over time, researchers have confirmed that just as many girls as boys have dyslexia. Boys are more likely to be referred by their schools for diagnosis.

MYTH: "Dyslexia only affects people who speak English."

FACT: Dyslexia occurs in speakers of all languages, even languages with consistent phoneme pronunciations and languages that do not use an alphabet script.

MYTH: "Dyslexia is a problem of visual perception."

FACT: Dyslexia is often depicted with letters and words upside-down or backwards. But research tells us that dyslexics have difficulty at the phoneme level—with the translation of sounds to symbols.

MYTH: "A person with dyslexia cannot be a good reader."

FACT: With intense systematic instruction, a person with dyslexia can become a strong reader. This is especially true if the child receives early intervention.

Other Learning Disabilities to Know

Dyscalculia difficulty with math

Dysgraphia difficulty with handwriting

Dyspraxia difficulty with motor skill development

2/3 of people have not heard of **dyscalculia**, **dysgraphia**, or **dyspraxia** though 9 out of ten have heard of dyslexia. (LD.org)

Children with Dyslexia can grow up to be Very Successful, just ask...

- ▶ Alexander Graham Bell
- ▶ Albert Einstein
- ▶ John Lennon
- ▶ Muhammad Ali
- ▶ Steven Spielberg
- ▶ Henry Winkler
- ▶ Tom Cruise
- ▶ Whoopi Goldberg
- ▶ Walt Disney
- ▶ Nolan Ryan
- ▶ Greg Louganis
- ▶ Jay Leno
- ▶ Agatha Christie
- ▶ Keira Knightley

Things Kids With Dyslexia Wish Everyone Knew

"We need to work in a different way, not in a harder way."

Being dyslexic doesn't mean we aren't really smart!"

"Learning to read when you have dyslexia is like hitting a brick wall over and over. We need you to help us go around the wall not through it."

"I need you to speak more slowly when you give instructions."

"We are not lazy. Having dyslexia means you have to work hard and never quit! It just may take us longer and we will have lots of questions. But when we get it, we don't forget it."

SOURCES

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES
ncld.org

YALE CENTER FOR DYSLLEXIA & CREATIVITY
dyslexia.yale.edu

LD ONLINE
ldonline.org

UNDERSTANDING SPECIAL EDUCATION
understandingspecialeducation.com

EDUCATION BUG
educationbug.org/a/special-education-statistics.html

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/index.html



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