



## What is Dyslexia?

**Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin.** It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and / or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. **Secondary consequences may include problems** in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

*Adopted by the IDA Board of Directors, Nov. 12, 2002. This Definition is also used by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).*

Studies show that individuals with dyslexia process information in a different area of the brain than do non-dyslexics.

Many people who are dyslexic are of average to above average intelligence.

Below is a list of the common characteristics of dyslexia. This list is one of many good lists of potential indicators. Decoding Dyslexia-NJ is a parent advocacy group for dyslexics. We present this information as a starting point for evaluating your child. There are links to the other lists and tools and we encourage you to review those also. Taken together, these tools can help you understand dyslexia and how some of the characteristics apply to your child.

## 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.

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### 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 a learning disability

## 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, were, does) 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 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
- 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

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia Email: [info@BrightSolutions.US](mailto:info@BrightSolutions.US) (408) 559-3652

[www.BrightSolutions.US](http://www.BrightSolutions.US)

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### **Additional links:**

The Yale Center For Dyslexia & Creativity, Signs of Dyslexia <http://dyslexia.yale.edu/clues1.html>

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, great video on dyslexia

[http://www.dys-add.com/videos/dyslexiaSymptomsSolutions\\_Part01.html](http://www.dys-add.com/videos/dyslexiaSymptomsSolutions_Part01.html)

Learning Ally, Potential Indicators for Dyslexia [https://www.learningally.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/LA\\_PotentialIndicatorsP.pdf](https://www.learningally.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/LA_PotentialIndicatorsP.pdf)

## **Evaluation**

Early intervention is very important when it comes to dyslexia. If you suspect your child has dyslexia, have your child evaluated.

National Center for Learning Disabilities – Testing for Dyslexia <http://nclid.org/parents-child-disabilities/ld-testing/testing-for-dyslexia>

International Dyslexia Association – Testing and Evaluation  
<http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/TestingandEvaluation.pdf>

## **Intervention**

International Dyslexia Association, Comparison of Multi-Sensory Programs  
<http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/MSL2007finalR1.pdf>

Introduction to the Orton-Gillingham Multi-Sensory Method  
<http://www.dys-add.com/getHelp.html#anchorOrtonIntro>

Well-known Orton-Gillingham based systems  
<http://www.dys-add.com/getHelp.html#anchorOrtonSystems>

Princeton Speech-Language & Learning Center  
<http://psllcnj.com/>

## **Providers**

[http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/nj\\_2014\\_01\\_31.pdf](http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/nj_2014_01_31.pdf)

<https://www.learningally.org/parents-students/learning-ally-approach/dyslexia-resources/resource-locator/New%20Jersey/>

## **Resources**

Decoding Dyslexia – NJ <http://decodingdyslexianj.org/resources/>

International Dyslexia Association Fact Sheet on Dyslexia and Related Language-Based Learning Disabilities <http://www.interdys.org/FactSheets.htm>

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia <http://www.dys-add.com/>

The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity <http://www.dyslexia.yale.edu/>

National Center for Learning Disabilities <http://www.nclid.org/>

## **Current Events**

Legislation – <http://decodingdyslexianj.org/nj-legislation/>

Department of Education Letter  
<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2014/APR/15/11264/Update%20on%20Dyslexia%20Legislation.pdf>

Governor Christie Signs Dyslexia Bills  
[http://www.nj.com/education/2014/01/gov\\_christie\\_signs\\_education\\_bills\\_on\\_dyslexia\\_screening\\_social\\_media\\_training.html](http://www.nj.com/education/2014/01/gov_christie_signs_education_bills_on_dyslexia_screening_social_media_training.html)

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