

Dyslexia Explained

For Teachers & Parents

Dyslexia is a learning disability that makes it difficult to read and understand written language. It occurs due to problems in the areas of the brain that are associated with language and information processing. You may notice that a student with dyslexia will have difficulties in phonemic awareness, phonics, and rapid word recognition.

Warning Signs & Symptoms

- Reading words in the wrong order or in the incorrect letter sequence (dog vs. god)
- Challenges identifying syllables (rain/bow in rainbow) and phonemes (c/a/t in cat)
- Confuses letters with similar shapes (“b” and “d”)
- Loses place on a page or skips lines
- Skipping or inventing words without self-correction
- Handwriting and other fine-motor coordination can be difficult
- Rhyming challenges
- Difficulties differentiating left from right
- Reads and rereads with little comprehension
- Sees movements of letters on a page when reading or writing
- Family history or dyslexia or reading challenges

Steps to Take

- Early intervention by a psychologist or reading specialist
- Utilizing services from trained tutors for intervention
- Offer audio book formats for reading such as <https://learningally.org/>
- Offer other customized learning aids or computer software
- Provide the student with extra time to complete testing, homework, and note taking
- Build your student’s confidence, recognize their strengths (they are most likely already aware of their weaknesses), and provide emotional support.