

Common Signs of Dyslexia

Reading problems can be tough on the whole family. If your child is struggling, the first thing to do is to find out why. Dyslexia is the most common cause of reading, writing and spelling difficulties. It's a learning disability that can affect both boys and girls and is more common in children whose parents also had difficulty with reading and writing.

Children with dyslexia can go on to become successful readers, but it's important to get extra help early!

Common signs

If these signs remind you of your child, talk with your child's teacher to see what extra help the school can offer. If difficulties persist, talk to the principal about getting a free evaluation for your child.

■ Preschool

- May talk later than most children
- May have difficulty pronouncing words
- May be slow to add new vocabulary words
- May be unable to recall the right word
- May have difficulty with rhyming
- May have trouble learning the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, colors, or shapes
- May have trouble learning how to write his or her name
- May be unable to follow multi-step directions or routines
- May have difficulty telling and/or retelling a story in the correct sequence

■ Kindergarten through fourth grade

- Often has difficulty separating sounds in words and blending sounds to make words
- May be slow to learn the connection between letters and sounds
- May confuse small words—*at/to, said/and, does/goes*
- Makes consistent reading and spelling errors
- May have trouble remembering facts
- May be slow to learn new skills; relies heavily on memorizing without understanding
- May be impulsive and prone to accidents
- May have difficulty planning
- Often uses an awkward pencil grip
- May have trouble learning to tell time

Adapted from *ABC's of Dyslexia*. (2000). International Dyslexia Association.

For more information on common signs of dyslexia, visit LDOnLine.org

Visit our sister sites, ColorinColorado.org and ReadingRockets.org, for more information about learning.

