

dyslexia

SIGNS,
SYMPTOMS &
INTERVENTION

Dyslexia impacts the learning of 1 in 5 learners in the United States.



Dyslexia: What is it?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability.

For those who are just starting to explore dyslexia and have concerns about their child's struggle in school, understanding what dyslexia is and *is not* is key to getting the right help.

The formal definition of dyslexia according to the International Dyslexia Association is:

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 classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

This definition can be intimidating. However, it also provides insight into the difficulty with diagnosing dyslexia. The most important statement is that dyslexia is a phonological processing deficit that is evident in students that have had the opportunity and the ability to learn. Having dyslexia does not mean that a child cannot learn or that he or she is not lacking intelligence. In fact, some of the world's most brilliant inventors, authors, scientists, and athletes have dyslexia. Simply put, dyslexia is a phonological processing issues, not an intelligence or motivation issue.

A comprehensive evaluation, the correct diagnosis, and consistent, intense instruction in a research-based Orton-Gillingham method are vital to ensuring that students get the help that they need.

contents

indicators of dyslexia	2
evaluations & interventions	2
resources	3
now what?	3

About The Dyslexia Training Institute



At the Dyslexia Training Institute our mission is to provide education about dyslexia, interventions for dyslexia (Orton-Gillingham) as well as how to navigate the educational system by understanding Special Education Law. Our courses were created for parents, caregivers, teachers, educational professionals and anyone interested in the topic. We believe information about dyslexia should not be limited by geography and we have created an online space where everyone has access to this information. Our instruction is provided by highly-qualified and very experienced instructors in an interactive online environment.

Find out more at <http://dyslexiatraininginstitute.org>.

possible indicators of dyslexia	Preschool Aged Children	Elementary Aged Children	Adults
<p>Dyslexia occurs on a continuum meaning that the degree to which a child struggles in one area can be vastly different from his struggle in another area. It is also important to keep in mind that many children without dyslexia struggle with some of these same symptoms, as well. Look at your child as a whole and if there are multiple symptoms and a family history of dyslexia (diagnosed or undiagnosed), further evaluation may be necessary.</p>	<p>Delayed speech.</p> <p>Trouble following multi-step directions.</p> <p>Struggles with rhyming words.</p> <p>Difficulty reading single sight words.</p> <p>Confusing small two-letter words.</p> <p>Letter reversals.</p> <p>Word reversals.</p> <p>Difficulty connecting sounds and letters.</p>	<p>Trouble with rhyming words.</p> <p>Difficulty connecting sounds and letters.</p> <p>Trouble remembering sequences such as the days of the week, months of the year, 0-20, or a phone number.</p> <p>Have trouble distinguishing left and right.</p> <p>Has trouble remembering spoken directions.</p> <p>Often unable to sit for an age-appropriate amount of time.</p> <p>Difficulty identifying and remembering sight words.</p>	<p>Poor speller.</p> <p>Relies heavily on memory and oral communication.</p> <p>Avoids writing.</p> <p>Difficulty with time management, organization, and planning.</p> <p>Hides reading problems.</p> <p>Can often be described as a "people person" with strong people skills.</p> <p>May be an entrepreneur.</p>

Evaluations

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

The evaluation process will begin with the collection of data from parents and teachers to get background on the child. Be honest and factual, report the areas in which you have observed your child struggling. Be sure to indicate a family history of dyslexia if there is one.

After the initial data is collected, your child will be given a battery of diagnostic tests that will help determine her areas of strength and weakness. The tests may vary from evaluator to evaluator, but should test not only the ability to read words alone, but also in context.

Be aware that the most comprehensive evaluations are usually done by neuropsychologists who are not associated with the school. While school evaluations are good at identifying many dyslexia indicators, they are usually not as in-depth as independent evaluations.

Primary care physicians are not trained to diagnose dyslexia.

Intervention

If there is a strong suspicion of dyslexia, even before an official diagnosis, reading intervention through a research-based Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach can begin.

The OG method is a highly-structured, systematic, multi-sensory approach that is best implemented one-on-one. It is methodical and should be taught by someone who has been trained in the approach.

Once a dyslexia diagnosis has been rendered, intervention must begin in order for a child to learn the tools he needs to be able to read. Delaying intervention is not wise, as it is more effective to intervene early and get a child the help he needs before the pitfalls of self-esteem issues, anxiety, and depression come to fruition.

People do not outgrow dyslexia. There is no "cure" for dyslexia. However, a research-based OG approach *can* and *will* help a child learn to read. The earlier the assistance is rendered, the easier it will be.



"Dyslexia has been the victim of misinformation, myths, and half-truths that have gone unchecked."

-Dr. Kelli Sandman-Hurley.
Dyslexia Training Institute

Resources

Dyslexia Training Institute
<http://dyslexiatraininginstitute.org>

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

International Dyslexia Association
<http://www.interdys.org/>

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

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

Dyslexia for a Day
<http://youtu.be/ZznFCz6V1cM>

Embracing Dyslexia
<http://embracingdyslexia.com>

Overcoming Dyslexia
by Dr. Sally Shaywitz

Proust and the Squid
by Maryanne Wolf

Reading in the Brain
by Stanislaus Dehaene

The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan
by Ben Foss

Now what?

Finding an evaluator

In many cases, parents seek out outside assistance from trained therapists and tutors to get the intervention their child needs.

Some also choose to learn the approach themselves through home study courses.



The [Dyslexia Training Institute](#) offers online certification and information classes for

parents, teachers, advocates, and those interested in dyslexia.

The International Dyslexia Association has a [member directory](#) for each state available on their website.

The [Barton Reading and Spelling System](#) is an OG-based approach that many families have found useful. It was developed by Susan Barton to give parents, homeschool parents, and volunteers an easy to understand and implement OG system to tutor their dyslexic child.

Know Your Rights

It is important to know your rights when it comes to the Special Education Law and how it relates to Dyslexia. Here are some resources to help you:

Webinar for Parents of Dyslexic Kids: Know Your Rights - Special Ed Law and Dyslexia: <http://bit.ly/1lqqepy>

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

IEP Tips

Once testing has been completed, a diagnosis has been made, and it is time for the actual IEP meeting, going in with a clear set of goals in mind is essential. These resources will help guide you:

Webinar: Dyslexia and the IEP - How to Make Sure Your IEP is in Tip Top Shape: <http://bit.ly/1dUFhYz>

Infographic: Navigating the Special Education Process: <http://bit.ly/1of13bN>

Dyslexia: The Incredible Disappearing Goals: <http://bit.ly/1mMAYRZ>

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Dyslexia Training Institute on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/DyslexiaTraining>

Dyslexia Training Institute on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DyslexiaTrainer>

Dyslexia Training Institute on Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/DyslexiaInst>

Dyslexia Training Institute Website: <http://dyslexiatraininginstitute.org>

Dyslexia Training Institute

Online Classes

- What is Dyslexia?
- Overview of the Orton-Gillingham Approach
- Reading Comprehension Strategies
 - Special Ed Law and Dyslexia



Certificate Programs

- Dyslexia Certificate Program: Level 1
- Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program

Webinars & Simulations



- Dyslexia for a Day
- Introduction to Dyslexia
- Advocacy: Know Your Rights - Special Ed Law and Dyslexia
- Structured Word Inquiry: Helping Struggling Students Make Sense of How the Written Word Works

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