



# Dyslexia Fact Sheet

## Signs & Symptoms

### **Definition of Dyslexia**<sup>1</sup>

“Dyslexia is a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words (decoding). Commonly referred to as a reading disability, dyslexia affects areas of the brain that process language.”<sup>1</sup> Children with dyslexia usually have normal intelligence and can be successful in school. They may need additional emotional support, tutoring or specialized education programs such as an IEP or 504 plan. Sometimes dyslexia goes unrecognized and undiagnosed for years and even into adulthood. Since there is no cure for dyslexia, early assessment and intervention will help individuals with dyslexia to have the best outcomes.

### **Signs and Symptoms**<sup>1</sup>

- Reading well below the expected level for age
- Problems processing and understanding what is heard
- Difficulty finding the right word or forming answers to questions
- Problems remembering sequencing
- Difficulty seeing or hearing similarities or differences in letters and words
- Difficulty spelling
- Inability to sound out the pronunciation of an unfamiliar word
- Spending an unusually long time completing tasks that involve reading
- Avoiding activities that involve reading
- Difficulty summarizing a story
- Difficulty memorizing
- Difficulty doing math problems
- Difficulty sounding out and pronouncing words

### **Who can DIAGNOSE Dyslexia?**<sup>2</sup>

Professionals with expertise in several fields are best qualified to make a diagnosis of dyslexia. The testing may be done by a single individual or by a team of specialists. A knowledge and background in psychology, reading, language and education are necessary. The tester must have a thorough working knowledge of how individuals learn to read and why some people have trouble learning to read. Examiners must also understand how to administer and interpret evaluation data and how to plan appropriate reading interventions.

### **References**

<sup>1</sup>Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. (2017, July 22). *Dyslexia*. Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/dyslexia/symptoms-causes/syc-20353552>.

<sup>2</sup>*Dyslexia Assessment: What Is It and How Can It Help?* International Dyslexia Association. (2020, March 10). <https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-assessment-what-is-it-and-how-can-it-help/>.