Dyslexia at a Glance

A practical introduction for families of children who find reading difficult.

A Note for Families

If learning to read isn't coming easily for your child, it is natural to wonder whether they will catch up, whether you should be worried, or what to do next. This guide explains what dyslexia is, clears up common misconceptions, and gives you a place to start. It does not diagnose dyslexia or replace individualized guidance.

What Is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that affects how the brain processes written language. It can affect decoding, reading accuracy, reading fluency, and spelling. Not every child who struggles to read has dyslexia, and not every child with dyslexia looks the same.

> DEA PERSPECTIVE
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> **Early intervention matters.**
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> The sooner reading difficulties are identified, the sooner the right support can begin. Early help builds foundational skills and protects a child's confidence before frustration sets in.

Why It Matters

Reading is the foundation for nearly every subject. When reading is hard, writing, spelling, and keeping up in class often become hard too. Understanding the reason behind the struggle helps families and schools choose the right support.

When Should I Be Concerned?

Every child learns to read at their own pace. If you notice several of these signs over time, it may be time to talk with your child's school.

- Difficulty learning letter names or letter sounds
- Trouble connecting letters with the sounds they make
- Slow or effortful reading
- Persistent difficulty spelling familiar words
- Reciting a favorite book from memory but not reading the words on their own
- Avoiding reading or becoming frustrated with reading tasks
- A family history of dyslexia or reading difficulties

These signs do not mean a child has dyslexia. They mean more information may be helpful.

Distributed Education Advocacy is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice or representation.

Common Misconceptions

MYTH	WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW
If my child reverses letters, they must have dyslexia.	Reversals are common as children learn to read and write, especially through second grade. Dyslexia is much more than reversals.
Children with dyslexia just need to read more.	Students with dyslexia benefit from explicit, evidence-based reading instruction matched to their needs.
Dyslexia is related to intelligence.	Dyslexia has nothing to do with intelligence. Many people with dyslexia have average to above-average intelligence and many strengths.

DEA PERSPECTIVE

Struggling is not the same as not trying.

Children with reading difficulties are often working harder than their peers, not less. The right instruction, not more pressure, is what moves reading forward.

Wondering How to Support Your Child's Reading?

Every child is different, and no guide can determine whether a student has dyslexia or which intervention is right. If you have concerns about your child's reading, would like help understanding school data, or want guidance through the process, schedule a consultation with Distributed Education Advocacy.

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