

Basic Warning Signs

- * Early years (pre-school) signs include: difficulty remembering names of letters of the alphabet, mispronouncing familiar words, trouble recognizing rhyming patterns, and a hard time recognizing letters of their own name.
- * Early school age signs include: reading well below the student's age level, difficulty spelling, difficulty comprehending rapid instruction, problems remembering sequences and difficulty seeing (and occasionally hearing) similarities and differences in letters and words.
- * Teen and adult signs are close to those in children but also include: trouble understanding jokes or expressions that have a meaning not easily understood from the specific words (idioms), such as "piece of cake" meaning "easy," and reading aloud and time management.

Important Note: Many students that display these signs often have excellent thinking skills, such as conceptualization, reasoning, imagination and abstraction. They also are often above average in areas not dependent on reading, such as math, computers and visual arts, or excel in more conceptual (versus factoid-driven) subjects, such as philosophy, biology, social studies, neuroscience and creative writing. These characteristics can vary from day to day or minute to minute. The most consistent thing about dyslexics is their inconsistency.

What can be done?

The younger a student is when they figure out that reading is tough for them, the sooner they—with the help of their teachers and parents—can find ways to learn that make it easier.

Students with dyslexia often learn to use other skills that they are especially good at (observing, listening and memorizing) to help them make sense of what they are reading or studying.

Having a positive attitude goes a long way. There is no cure. However, understand that having the condition does NOT mean a student cannot reach any goal they choose. They may simply need to find alternative paths and work a little harder than other students to achieve them.

Additional Info and Links

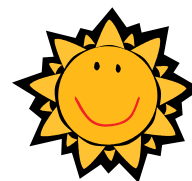
<http://dyslexia.yale.edu/dyslexiastraighttalk.html>

<http://bartonreading.com/dys.html>

www.learningally.org

http://www.dyslexia.org/what_causes.shtml

<http://www.dys-add.com/videos/dyslexiaClassroom.html>



Keep in Mind:

It is never too early to begin good practices to enrich learning and develop a foundation for later reading.

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