

Warning Signs of Dyslexia

The biggest warning is a close relative who has difficulty reading. If someone has three or more of these warning signs, their difficulties are probably due to dyslexia. We recommend an evaluation for that person as soon as possible.

In Preschoolers:

- delayed speech
- mixing up the sounds or syllables
- chronic ear infections
- severe reactions to childhood illnesses
- constant confusion of left versus right
- late establishing a dominant hand
- difficulty learning to tie shoes
- trouble memorizing his address, phone number, or the alphabet
- can't create words that rhyme

In Elementary School:

(Educational history similar to the left plus):

- handwriting that is difficult to read
- letter or number reversals continuing past 1st grade
- extreme difficulty learning cursive
- slow, choppy, inaccurate reading
- guesses based on shape or context, skips or misreads prepositions (at, to)
- ignores suffixes
- can't sound out unknown words
- poor spelling
- often can't remember sight words (they, were, does) or homonyms (their, they're, there)
- difficulty telling time on a clock with hands
- trouble with math: memorizing multiplication tables, a sequence of steps, directionality
- extremely messy bedroom, backpack and desk
- dreads going to school, complains of stomach aches or headaches, may have nightmares about school

In High School:

(All of the above plus):

- limited vocabulary
- extremely poor written expression
- large discrepancy between verbal and written communication.
- unable to master a foreign language
- difficulty reading printed music
- poor grades in many classes
- may drop out of highschool

In Adults:

(Educational history similar to above, plus):

- slow reader
- may have to read a page 2 of 3 times to understand it
- extremely poor spelling
- difficulty putting thoughts onto paper...dreads writing memos or letters
- still has difficulty with right versus left
- often gets lost, even in a familiar city
- sometimes confuses b and d...especially when tired or sick