

What We Know About Dyslexia

FACETS- Endless Possibilities Conference
Wisconsin Dells
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National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The Nation's Report Card-2013

- 63% of American 4th graders
- 71% of American 8th graders
- 65% of Wisconsin 4th graders
- 67% of Wisconsin 8th graders

Read **BELOW** Proficiency

(NCES, 2013)

2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- 65% of WI 4th graders
- 69% of WI white students
- 89% of WI black students (lowest in nation)
- 80% of WI low-income students
- 92% of WI learning disability students

Read **BELOW** Proficiency

(NCES, 2013)

Dyslexia at a Glance

- Dyslexia is the name for specific learning disabilities in reading.
- Dyslexia is often characterized by difficulties with accurate word recognition, decoding and spelling.
- Dyslexia may cause problems with reading comprehension and slow down vocabulary growth.
- Dyslexia may result in poor reading fluency and reading out loud.
- Dyslexia is neurological and often genetic.
- Dyslexia is not the result of poor instruction, although poor instruction can cause some students to look dyslexic.
- With the proper support, almost all people with dyslexia can become good readers and writers.

Signs and Symptoms of Dyslexia

- Delayed/Late Talking
- Inadequate Speech
- Difficulty Rhyming
- Difficulty blending sounds together
- Difficulty in learning and remembering printed words
- Difficulty in finding the rights word when speaking
- Difficulty with right/left orientation
- Directional difficulty: space and time
- Motor "clumsiness"
- Poorly written work

Dyslexia on a continuum

Subtypes of severely impaired readers (who are often described as dyslexic).

- Subtype 1: displays deficits in phonological awareness.
- Subtype 2: deficits in naming speed.
- Subtype 3: most serious and shows deficits in both areas.
 - This group, referred to as the double-deficit subtype

Myths about Dyslexia

- Dyslexia is a disease
- All dyslexics are alike
- There is nothing that can help a dyslexic read
- Dyslexics are slow learners
- Dyslexia is “flipping letters”
- Dyslexia affects boys more often than girls
- Visual training cures dyslexia
- It’s a developmental issue – kids outgrow it
- Dyslexics can’t be successful
- We need to wait for reading failure before we can diagnose dyslexia



Other Dyslexia facts

- 80% of students with learning disabilities have a reading difficulty often dyslexia.
- 5% of individuals with dyslexia are never properly diagnosed and given appropriate help, so over 85% of adult illiterates are dyslexic.
- It is estimated that 30% of those with dyslexia have coexisting AD/HD.

How Is Dyslexia Diagnosed?

Trained professionals can identify dyslexia using a formal evaluation.

- Evaluation looks at a person's ability to:
 - understand and use spoken/ written
- Identifies:
 - areas of strength(s) and weaknesses needed to read well.
- Other Factors
 - Family history
 - Intellect
 - Educational background
 - Social environment

How is Dyslexia Treated?

- Identification Early in Life
- Expose your child to early oral reading, writing, drawing, and practice to encourage
- Development of print knowledge
- Basic letter formation
- Recognition skills and linguistic awareness (the relationship between sound and meaning)
- Multisensory (sight, sound, movement and touch) structured language instruction when working on new ideas/concepts.
- Seek modifications and accommodations in the classroom.

Modifications/accommodations in the classroom.

- Extra time to complete assignments or shortened assignments
- Outline or note-taking provided
- Oral testing or alternative assessments.
- Use books on tape and assistive technology. Examples are screen readers and voice recognition (speech to print) computer software.

Emotional Issues

Lack of appropriate identification can lead to:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- “Acting out” behaviors
- Feelings of inadequacy- feeling “stupid”
- Loss of potential

Find the strengths

- Reading and writing are key skills for daily living. However, it is important to also emphasize other aspects of learning and expression. Like all people, those with dyslexia enjoy activities that tap into their strengths and interests. For example, people with dyslexia may be attracted to fields that do not emphasize language skills. Examples are design, art, architecture, engineering and surgery.



Recommended Reading and Resources for Parents

- Hall, S. & Moats, L. Moats, L. (2002) Parenting a struggling reader. New York: Broadway Books.
- C., & Dakin, K. (2008). Basic facts about dyslexia and other reading problems. Baltimore: The International Dyslexia Association
- Shaywitz, S. (2003). Overcoming dyslexia: A new and complete science-based program for reading problems at any level. New York: Knopf.
- www.interdys.org
- www.understood.org
- www.yale.dyslexia.edu

Thank You

Questions

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