

DYSLEXIA

From the Greek dys “difficulty” and lexia “pertaining to words”

Common characteristics include:

- A fine, creative mind; dyslexics often excel in art music, drama, mechanics, athletics, problem solving, and hands-on activities.
- Average to above average intelligence
- Reading, spelling, and/or comprehension skills which fall below expectation
- Difficulty in sounding out unfamiliar words
- Difficulty with memory and recall of words in written and oral expression
- Comparatively high frequency of reading, writing, and spelling errors, e.g., omissions, insertions, substitutions, and reversals
- Problems organizing, sequencing, and/or retrieving information
- Difficulty following or remembering oral instructions
- Persistence in reading errors
- Persistence in spelling errors
- Difficulty in visual perception and memory; letter and word recognition, reversals, and transpositions (b-d, on-no, girl-grill)
- Difficulty in auditory processing, listening, sequencing, remembering what is heard, following directions and self-expression
- Labored and/or illegible handwriting
- Disorganization and lack of structure in oral and/or written language
- Sequencing problems in oral language
- Leaves out short words

Related characteristics may include:

- Slow in learning to talk
- One who is a hesitant talker
- Does not always understand what is said to them
- Is inattentive or apparently disinterested in listening to stories read to them
- Has difficulty remembering words, learning new words or expressing themselves
- Is slow in acquiring a vocabulary for verbalizing or may use too many words to make themselves understood by others
- Mispronouncing words
- Inability to recall names of acquaintance or places
- Tends to be clumsy or awkward in large muscle activities – running, hopping, skipping, playing games, sports
- Delayed speech development or speech problems
- Family history of language learning problems
- Difficulty with math
- Allergies
- Attention deficit with or without hyperactivity
- Difficulty with abstract concepts of time and direction