

What is Dyslexia?

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DEFINITION

“Dyslexia is defined as an unexpected difficulty in learning to read. Dyslexia takes away an individual’s ability to read quickly and automatically and to retrieve spoken words easily, but it does not dampen their creativity and ingenuity.”

-Yale Centre for Dyslexia and Creativity

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HOW COMMON IS DYSLEXIA?

10-20% of the population has a language-based learning disability. Dyslexia is the most common cause of reading, writing and spelling difficulties. Dyslexia affects people from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds nearly equally.

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WHAT CAUSES DYSLEXIA?

Dyslexia is often hereditary, and it runs in the family. The exact causes of dyslexia are still not completely clear. Still, anatomical and brain imagery studies show differences in the way the brain of a person with dyslexia develops and functions.

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SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA

While each person’s experience of dyslexia will look different, the most common signs include:

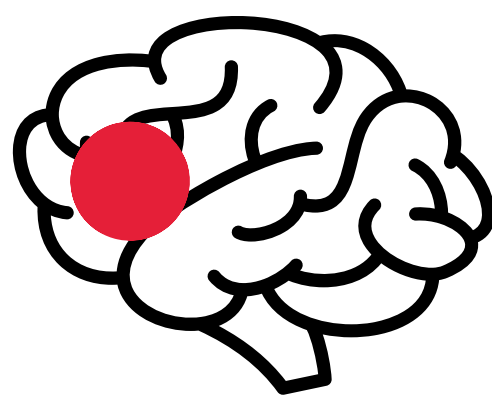
- difficulty learning letter names and sounds
- slow and labour-intensive reading
- difficulty with writing and spelling
- trouble reading unfamiliar words
- avoiding reading

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DYSLEXIA IN THE BRAIN



Neurotypical Reader



Reader with dyslexia

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DYSLEXIA MYTHS

Dyslexia is not:

- rare
- seeing letters backwards
- related to intelligence/ IQ
- a lack of motivation or laziness
- a visual problem
- something that can be “outgrown”
- caused by poor parenting