

Understanding Dyslexia

Having dyslexia doesn't mean people aren't smart. It means they have trouble with reading and other skills that involve language. Here are common signs to look for at different ages.



Preschool

- Mispronouncing words, like saying "beddy tear" instead of "teddy bear"
- Saying "thing" and "stuff" instead of naming common objects
- Trouble learning nursery rhymes or singing the alphabet
- Telling stories that are hard to follow
- Difficulty following directions with multiple steps



Grades K–2

- Trouble learning letter names and remembering the sounds they make
- Confusing letters that look similar (like b and d) or sound similar (like f and v)
- Struggling to read familiar words (like cat), especially if there aren't pictures
- Substituting words when reading aloud, like "house" when the story says "home"
- Trouble separating the sounds in words and blending sounds to make words
- Struggling to remember how words are spelled



Grades 3–5

- Confusing or skipping small words like "for" and "of" when reading aloud
- Trouble sounding out new words and recognizing common ones
- Struggling to explain what happened in a story or answer questions about it
- Frequently making the same kinds of mistakes, like reversing letters
- Spelling the same word correctly and incorrectly in the same exercise
- Avoiding reading whenever possible or getting frustrated or upset when reading



Tweens, Teens, and Adults

- Reading slowly or skipping small words or parts of words when reading aloud
- Often searching for words or using substitutes like "gate" instead of "fence"
- Trouble "getting" jokes or understanding idioms, puns, and abbreviations
- Taking a very long time to complete reading assignments
- Having an easier time answering questions about text that's read aloud

Remember: Early identification and support can make a significant difference. If you notice these signs, consider consulting with educational professionals or specialists.