



Dyslexia Identification and Ten Forms of Intervention



by Daniela Silva

Dyslexia is not a disease and has nothing to do with intelligence.

Developmental dyslexia is a learning disorder characterized by deficits in phonological and speech-articulatory skills. People with this disorder have difficulty understanding written texts, identifying and memorizing letters, and correctly relating the alphabetic sounds. While dyslexia is possible to identify in childhood, it accompanies people throughout their life.

Dyslexia is a genetic and neurological learning disorder in which the person has problems in identifying the graphic symbols of words and transforming them into sounds. This could be due to a change in the part of the brain responsible for language processing. Research shows people with dyslexia have less gray matter—used in information processing—in the left part of the brain. Another difference is that the auditory part of the brain called planum temporale is bigger on the left hemisphere of typical brains, but symmetrical in dyslexic brains. This could affect how they learn to read and write.

Not all reading difficulties are dyslexia. Other reading difficulties are often pedagogical rather than cognitive. In addition,

factors such as poor parental stimulation, inadequate nutrition, intellectual disability, or other disorders can lead children to develop problems in learning to read and write.

Dyslexia identification usually occurs during the literacy period. Let's see below how dyslexia presents itself in different stages of a person's life:

Preschool

- Delayed speech.
- Trouble with phrases and changing letters.
- Exchanging phonemes (sounds) in speech.
- Difficulty naming colors or objects (dysnomia). Example: instead of saying "chair" the child says "something that you sit on."
- Confusion in using words that indicate direction such as right/left.
- Difficulty perceiving and producing rhymes.
- Lack of interest in printed materials, such as books.
- Problems in telling a story in a sequenced manner.

- Tripping/colliding with people or objects frequently.

Elementary School

- Inverting the spelling of letters and numbers.
- Slow reading for age.
- Difficulty copying whiteboard content.
- Counting using fingers.
- Problems in spelling, separating, and sequencing sounds.
- While reading, moving the lips, murmuring.
- Problems remembering sequences of days of the week, months of the year, alphabet, multiplication tables.
- Severe difficulties in activities such as dictations and/or essays.
- Problems planning and organizing tasks.

Middle and High School

- Difficulty in developing written texts.
- Tendency to read slowly and without fluidity.
- Problems understanding what is being read.
- Preference for audio-books over printed material.
- Poor vocabulary.

Be flexible and give the student more time to complete activities.

Ten Guidelines for Parents

1. The best way to help students with dyslexia is to seek specialized care. Consult a licensed educational psychologist, a neurologist, or another medical professional for a complete assessment to diagnose dyslexia.

2. Talk to the student about his/her learning difficulties and establish a bond of trust and cooperation. Many dyslexics have low self-esteem and therefore feel unmotivated to persevere in their studies.

3. Games and activities that use words and embossed letters with different textures and colors can help. To reinforce visual learning, the student must outline the letters with his/her fingers in order to identify and differentiate their shapes.

4. The phonetic method of literacy is proven effective for students with dyslexia, assuming that the sound is better assimilated by the brain. This methodology works first with sounds and then associates it with the corresponding letter. The result is writing with better phonological awareness.

5. Multisensory programs are also effective for reading skills, as they cater to the student's different learning styles (visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic). This makes the activities more engaging and stimulating.

6. When working on reading, use short texts with attractive contents, increasing

complexity according to the child's progress. A quiet, organized study environment with good lighting and free from distractions (such as TV, tablets, cell phone, video games, etc.) is crucial to the student's learning process.

7. Encourage writing cursive letters, as it helps in the cognitive abilities of attention, focus, dexterity, and memorization of the orthographic form of the word. In addition, writing in cursive develops fine motor coordination, eye-hand coordination, spatial orientation, and other brain functions.

8. Be flexible and give the student more time to complete activities. Reading and writing require a lot of effort for the dyslexic, so the student tends to be distracted or tired more easily.

9. Stimulate phonological awareness skills, which is the ability to manipulate speech sounds. Activities such as working with rhymes, separating words into syllables, reading stories and asking child to retell, and identifying words with the same initial sound or the same final sound are simple examples that can help in this skill.

10. Promote self-confidence in students with dyslexia, valuing their skills and interests. Many dyslexic students have a strong sensibility in activities that involve leadership and creativity, and a natural talent for the arts. Some become brilliant writers, actors, designers, photographers, and athletes.

Dyslexia is not a disease and has nothing to do with intelligence. It is a neurological disorder in which the person learns differently from a conventional reader. With appropriate intervention and teaching strategies, it is possible to overcome difficulties and evolve in the processes of reading and writing. 🏡

About Daniela

Daniela Silva is a Brazilian educator and writer. She holds a BA in pedagogy with concentrations in school management and business education; and an MBA in personnel management and a postgraduate certificate in neuroeducation. Working in e-learning and people development, Ms. Silva is a regular contributor to several educational websites. Working in collaboration with The New Heights Educational Group, Inc., she recently published Unraveling Reading, a book on literacy education and learning disabilities in reading and writing. Email her at danieducator@gmail.com. Romans 12:2.

References:

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK332886/>. Accessed on: 09/26/2020.
- <https://lance.paginas.ufsc.br/files/2020/03/Cartilha-LANCE-Dyslexia-Vers%C3%A3o-Beta-2.pdf>. Accessed on: 09/20/2020.
- file:///D:/Books/Dyslexia/Successfully-Homeschooling-Your-Child-With-Dyslexia.pdf. Accessed on: 09/20/2020.

BIBLE COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS KIDS LOVE AND PARENTS TRUST



Inspiring our kids to read the Bible can be really tough, especially with cell phones and video games competing for their attention. Christian comic books and graphic novels can help! Our award-winning, pastor-approved books engage children's imaginations and inspire them to dig deeper into the Scriptures.



Use Code:
TOS
For 30%
Off Your
Order

www.beartruthbooks.com

