

DYSLEXIA

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. Reid, G. (2008) The affected child has difficulties with specific language skills particularly reading. Children with dyslexia usually experience difficulties with other language skills like writing, spelling, and pronouncing words.

Sign and Symptoms of Dyslexia

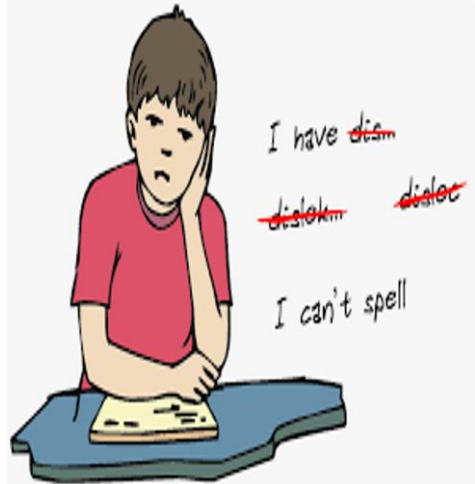
Shaywitz, S. (2017). The child is a late talker. Mix up sounds of words and order of numbers. Have difficulty recalling words, objects or name of the people. Difficulty rhyming words. Persistent spelling problems. Difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing. Unable to pair speech sounds with letters. Poor concentration, perception and memory. Difficulty in verbal skills, abstract reasoning. Mixing up multi-syllabic words.

Challenges/ Barriers to Diagnosing Dyslexia

Cunningham, Maria (2021) Overreliance on untrained teachers. Constructs included in DSM-5; diagnostic reports are still not seen to be on the same standard as Educational Psychologists (EP). The stigma of being diagnosed with dyslexia. Inadequate state laws and funding. Odegard et al., 2020 Racial, socioeconomic, and gender inequalities. The significant changes in diagnostic criteria between the DSM-4 and DSM-5. Teachers not being well equipped to detect children with dyslexia and have insufficient instruction regarding the disability.

Ways To Overcome Barriers

The diagnosis should include measures that would allow for the identification of high functioning individuals with dyslexia. Teachers need to be better educated regarding dyslexia. Schools also need reform. (Shaywitz, 1998; Shaywitz, 2003) The awareness of the impact of student race, socioeconomic status, sex, and language capability need to be at the forefront of teacher and administrator education efforts. A greater public education, in which the condition is normalized to help individuals with dyslexia not feel alone.



Source: California Counseling Group

Why Should Dyslexia Be Addressed?

Reading comprehension is key to everything your child will do at school until the end of secondary school. If children with dyslexia fail to receive any support, their learning gap may continue to worsen as they progress through school. Children who experience difficulties with written language need to learn and train using the right tools and methods to assimilate the relationships between what letters and words look like and what they sound like.



Source: California Counseling Group

Strategy Needed to Support Dyslexia

The Orton-Gillingham Model; involve:

- Multisensory and interactive activities
- Personalized intervention
- Sequential and structured questions

Impact of Dyslexia on Children and Families

They have trouble in grasping abstract concepts and in retelling a story. Knight, C. (2021). Individual distress occasioned by dyslexia. It can often result in sibling rivalry. Some parents maybe anxious about the possibility of their offspring also suffering from dyslexia. The family may not accept that the child has a learning disorder, instead simply defining the problem as laziness. The perception that they have a cognitive impairment can lead to a struggle with the teacher, with the parents and with themselves.

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