

Do you know a child or student that is having problems with reading and spelling? Take a look at these common indicators of a reading disability like dyslexia. Dyslexia is not an intellectual disability, so you might see a child with average (or even above average) IQ that is really struggling with reading and spelling.

This is often an unexpected issue. Dyslexia does not go away, it is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin.

With evidence-based reading and spelling programs these students can learn to read and spell. It is also very important to accommodate them in school. The sooner a student's dyslexia is identified, the better the results will be, so trust your observations and move forward with a reading screening or request a full evaluation to gain additional information.

Dyslexia is not the same for everyone. It is a spectrum disorder and each symptom can be mild to profound. There are also other conditions that may also be present.

Some symptoms of dyslexia are:

### **READING**

Problems matching letters to their correct sounds

Below expected reading level for their age

Trouble understanding the difference between sounds in words

Difficulty blending letter sounds within words

Trouble recognizing and remembering sight words

Confusing letters and words that look similar

Loses their place and skips over words while reading

Avoids reading tasks

### **WRITING**

Problems copying and writing at an age-appropriate level and difficulty organizing writing assignments

Confusing the order or direction of letters, numbers and symbols

Spelling words incorrectly or phonetically and inconsistently most of the time

Poor ability to proofread and correct written work

Handwriting shows poor letter formation and placement

Uses less complex vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure

### **SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL**

Lack of motivation about school or learning

Lack of confidence in learning or feels embarrassed or shame over academic struggles

Negative self-image compared to grade-level peers

Expresses dislike for reading and other academic tasks

Exhibits anxiety or frustration

### **LANGUAGE**

Delayed speech and mispronouncing words

Trouble learning the alphabet, numbers, and days of the week

Difficulty rapidly naming people and objects

Lack of interest in stories and books

Difficulty using new vocabulary words correctly

Trouble distinguishing words from other words that sound similar

Struggles to identify or produce words that rhyme

### **OTHER**

Poor sense of direction / spatial concepts, such as left and right

Performs inconsistently on daily tasks

Appears distracted and unfocused

As children get older many of these difficulties will continue. Often the student will have poor grades and homework takes longer than expected. There is often limited comprehension of the material being used because the student is unable to read with ease.

We often see behavioral problems emerge as students are being tasked with a work load that is not manageable. Sometimes the student may be doing satisfactorily in school but they are spending an unreasonable amount of time doing homework and always trying to catch up.

Many of these students feel overwhelmed. Some develop anxiety and depression due to their misunderstood situation. They often do not understand what is causing them to struggle. Others might simply give up and appear to have an attitude that may present as laziness or lack of motivation.

***Poor spelling and slow reading are symptoms of dyslexia***

### Our advocacy goals:

- A universal definition and understanding of dyslexia.
- Effective implementation of universal K-2 screening for reading difficulties, including risk of dyslexia.
- The use of evidence-based literacy instructional materials supported by the science of reading.
- The California Dyslexia Guidelines and evidenced-based literacy instruction to be incorporated into higher education coursework for all teacher credentialing degrees.
- State funded professional development for teachers in evidenced-based literacy instruction that adheres to the science of reading.
- Access to appropriate assistive technologies and necessary accommodations for students with dyslexia so they can access grade-level curriculum.

### Connect with us to stay up-to-date on literacy-related news, events, resources and legislation!



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# Is Your Child Struggling in School?



**Decoding Dyslexia CA** is a grassroots movement driven by California families, educators, and professionals dedicated to improving literacy outcomes for struggling readers, especially those with dyslexia. We work to empower families, advocate for equitable access to evidence-based literacy instruction, and raise dyslexia awareness.

**Join the movement!**

**DecodingDyslexiaCA.org**