

Dyslexia Information

FROM REGION 9

940-322-6928

FAST FACTS

- MOST COMMON LEARNING DISABILITY (POSSIBLY 1 IN 5 KIDS)
- AFFECTS AS MANY GIRLS AS BOYS
- THOUGHT TO BE INHERITED
- NOT OUT-GROWN

Cause?

Most people with dyslexia have trouble identifying each speech sound in a word (*phonological processing*) and then learning how alphabet letters represent the sounds.

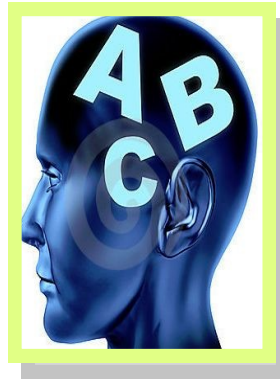
What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. This means that a dyslexic person's brain develops and functions somewhat differently than the brain of a non-dyslexic.

Dyslexics have difficulties with language skills, such as reading, writing, spelling,

and sometimes pronouncing words.

Dyslexia is not



caused by lack of intelligence, by poor instruction in

school, or by not wanting to learn.

Although dyslexic students struggle with reading, they have good critical thinking skills, reasoning ability, and problem-solving capabilities. They often do well in non-language areas such as art, math, and sports.

Common Characteristics of Dyslexia

- * Trouble rhyming or orally manipulating words or word parts (such as saying "cowboy" without "cow" or "tap" without the /t/ sound)
- * Difficulty learning alphabet letters and sounds
- * Struggle to read or sound out even simple words
- * Spelling issues
- * Slow, labored reading aloud
- * Trouble with word recall or pronunciation ("busgetti" instead of "spaghetti")



How is dyslexia diagnosed?

If a student struggles with reading and spelling, the teacher will intensify instruction and monitor the child's progress. If improvement is not adequate and the child shows characteristics of dyslexia, a formal assessment can be done.

If the student is determined to be dyslexic, he/she will receive additional special instruction in reading and spelling that is direct, systematic, and intensive. .

Students who are dyslexic also will be evaluated for classroom accommodations under a §504 plan. Section 504 is part of a federal law that guarantees accommodations to a student who needs them because of an impairment that, in the case of dyslexia, would substantially affect his/her reading and learning. The student also can receive certain accommodations on statewide assessments.

The State of Texas has a dyslexia law as well as procedures for what must be done to identify dyslexia and then give instruction to remediate it. This information is contained in *The Dyslexia Handbook — Revised 2007, Updated 2010*.

Access The Dyslexia Handbook @ <http://www.region9.org>

Click on "Programs and Services" tab, then on "Dyslexia" in the alphabet listing

What if I think my child may be dyslexic?

Parents concerned about a child's difficulties with reading and/or spelling should discuss their worries with the classroom teacher, counselor, or principal at the child's school. A campus-level team designed to address student needs will meet to discuss possible actions, one of which may be a



dyslexia assessment. A student does not have to fail a class or the statewide reading assessment or be a certain grade level before assessment can be done. However, students should be provided research-based intervention before being recommended for evaluation.

The Dyslexia Handbook

indicates that a parent may request dyslexia assessment at any time. If the school district has data to support refusal of the request, procedural protections under §504 must be followed. Parents also may have a private assessment done. However, the district determines whether the student is eligible for dyslexia services.