



**DYSLEXIA** is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.

Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

## CHARACTERISTICS

- Difficulty naming and remembering letters
- Omits parts of words when reading
- Impairment of learning that may affect one or more academic area
- Difficulties with reading print accurately with a rate that supports comprehension
- Difficulty using phonics and/or familial parts of a word to spell and read unknown words automatically
- Core deficit in phonological processing skills (ability to see or hear a word, break it down to discrete sounds, and then associate each sound with letter/s that make up the word), speech sounds are poorly processed
- Difficulties despite average to above average intelligence, environmental opportunities, and classroom instruction
- Exists in individuals with talents and abilities that enable them to be successful in many areas of life
- Coexists with other developmental difficulties and disabilities, including problems with attention, memory, and organizational skills
- Exists on a continuum of mild, moderate, to severe
- Structural and functional difference in the brain

**RESOURCES** [eida.org](http://eida.org) • [dyslexia.yale.edu](http://dyslexia.yale.edu) • [dyslexiacenterofutah.org](http://dyslexiacenterofutah.org)

## FACTS

**80%** of students who are placed in special education for a learning disability have dyslexia

**1 IN 5** students has dyslexia

Nearly the same percentage of **BOYS AND GIRLS** have dyslexia

Dyslexia occurs at all levels of **INTELLIGENCE** — average, above average, and highly gifted

With proper diagnosis, appropriate instruction, hard work, and support, individuals with dyslexia can **SUCCEED**

Dyslexia is **NEUROLOGICALLY BASED**

Many students with milder forms of dyslexia are never **OFFICIALLY DIAGNOSED** and are not eligible for special education service