



# What is Dyslexia?

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 growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

Adopted by the IDA Board of Directors, November 12, 2002. This definition is also used by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Studies show that individuals with dyslexia process information in a different area of the brain than do non-dyslexics. Many people who are dyslexic are of average to above average intelligence.

Here is a list of common characteristics of dyslexia from Bright Solutions for Dyslexia. It is one of many good lists available outlining potential indicators. Decoding Dyslexia-ID is a parent advocacy group for individuals with dyslexia. We present this information as a starting point for assessing your child. We include links to other lists and tools and encourage you to review those also. Taken together, these tools can help you understand dyslexia and how some of the characteristics may apply to your child.

**DECODING DYSLEXIA - ID Email:**  
[contact@decodingdyslexiaidaho.org](mailto:contact@decodingdyslexiaidaho.org)  
Facebook: Decoding Dyslexia - ID

## Common Signs of Dyslexia

If a child has 3 or more of the following signs, encourage that child's parents and teachers to learn more about dyslexia

### In Preschool

- Delayed speech
- Mixing up the sounds and syllables in long words
- Chronic ear infections
- Severe reactions to childhood illnesses
- Constant confusion of left versus right  late establishing a dominant hand
- Difficulty learning to tie shoes
- Trouble memorizing their address, phone number, or the alphabet
- Can't create words that rhyme
- A close relative with a learning disability

### In Elementary School

- Dysgraphia (slow, non-automatic handwriting that is difficult to read)
- Letter or number reversals continuing past the end of first grade
- Extreme difficulty learning cursive
- Slow, choppy, inaccurate reading
  - ✓ guesses based on shape or context
  - ✓ skips or misreads prepositions (at, to, of)
  - ✓ ignores suffixes - can't sound out unknown words
- Terrible spelling
- Often can't remember sight words (they, were, does) or homonyms (their, they're, and there)
- Difficulty telling time with a clock with hands
- Trouble with math
  - ✓ memorizing multiplication tables
  - ✓ memorizing a sequence of steps
  - ✓ directionality
- When speaking, difficulty finding the correct word
  - ✓ lots of "whatyamacallits" and "thingies"
  - ✓ common sayings come out slightly twisted
- Extremely messy bedroom, backpack, and desk
- Dreads going to school
  - ✓ complains of stomach aches or headaches
  - ✓ may have nightmares about school

### In High School

All of the above symptoms plus:

- Limited vocabulary
- Extremely poor written expression
  - ✓ large discrepancy between verbal skills and written compositions
- Unable to master a foreign language
- Difficulty reading printed music
- Poor grades in many classes
- May drop out of high school

### In Adults

Education history similar to above, plus:

- Slow reader
- May have to read a page 2 or 3 times to understand it
- Terrible speller
- Difficulty putting thoughts onto paper
  - ✓ dreads writing memos or letters
- Still has difficulty with right versus left
- Often gets lost, even in a familiar city
- Sometimes confuses b and d, especially when tired or sick

### Bright Solutions for Dyslexia

Email: [info@BrightSolutions.US](mailto:info@BrightSolutions.US), Phone: (408) 559-3652  
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# Additional Resources

## Warning Signs Checklists

The Yale Center For Dyslexia & Creativity: Signs of dyslexia at [www.dyslexia.yale.edu/clues1.html](http://www.dyslexia.yale.edu/clues1.html)

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia: Great video on dyslexia at [www.dys-add.com/videos/dyslexiaSymptomsSolutions\\_Part01.html](http://www.dys-add.com/videos/dyslexiaSymptomsSolutions_Part01.html)

Learning Ally: Dyslexia screener at [www.learningally.org/parents-students/is-it-dyslexia/](http://www.learningally.org/parents-students/is-it-dyslexia/)

**Evaluation: Early intervention is very important. If you suspect your child has dyslexia, have your child evaluated**

National Center for Learning Disabilities: Testing for dyslexia at [www.nclld.org/parents-childdisabilities/ldtesting/testing-for-dyslexia](http://www.nclld.org/parents-childdisabilities/ldtesting/testing-for-dyslexia)

International Dyslexia Association: Testing and evaluation at [www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/TestingandEvaluation.pdf](http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/TestingandEvaluation.pdf)

## Idaho Resources

- Coopalo Learning Center: Karyn Kilpatrick-Snell, Executive Director & Founder, [karyn@coopalolearningcenter.com](mailto:karyn@coopalolearningcenter.com) [www.coopalolearningcenter.com](http://www.coopalolearningcenter.com)
- Chatterbox: 8620 W. Emerald St., Suite 100, Boise, ID 83704, 208-898-1368 [boisechatterbox.com](http://boisechatterbox.com)
- Joshua Institute: Connie Risser, NILD Educational Therapy 2150 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, ID 83642 (208) 893-5130 <https://www.joshuainstitute.org/services/>, <http://nild.org/nild-educational-therapy-2/>
- Lee Pesky Learning Center: 3324 Elder Street, Boise, ID 83705 (208) 333-0008 <https://www.lplearningcenter.org>
- Reach the Summit Language and Literacy Clinic: Address: 445 Fitness Plaza, Suite 100, Eagle ID 83616, Phone: (208)793-1557, Fax: (208)473-7337, Email: [KLewis@rtsliteracy.com](mailto:KLewis@rtsliteracy.com), Website: [Reachthesummitliteracy.com](http://Reachthesummitliteracy.com)
- Wired2Learn Academy: 1800 N. Highway #41, Post Falls, ID 83854 <https://www.wired2learnacademy.com/>

## Service Providers

International Dyslexia Association: Provider Directory at [www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/nj\\_2014\\_01\\_31.pdf](http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/nj_2014_01_31.pdf)

Learning Ally: Specialist Directory at [www.learningally.org/parents-students/learning-ally-approach/dyslexia-resources/resource-locator/New%20Jersey](http://www.learningally.org/parents-students/learning-ally-approach/dyslexia-resources/resource-locator/New%20Jersey)

Learning Ally: Reading Tutor Network at [www.learningally.org/parents-students/learning-ally-approach/dyslexia-resources/reading-tutor-network](http://www.learningally.org/parents-students/learning-ally-approach/dyslexia-resources/reading-tutor-network)

Boise Psychological Services: 315 N. Allumbaugh St., Boise, ID, 83704, 208-376-3546, [www.boisepsychservices.com](http://www.boisepsychservices.com)

Lewiston Psychology Associates: 633 Main St., Suite B, Lewiston, ID 83501, 208-724-0489

Northwest Neurobehavioral Health: 2463 E. Gala St., Meridian, ID 83642, 208-955-7333, [www.nnhidaho.com](http://www.nnhidaho.com)

St. Luke's Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: 3525 E. Louise Dr., MeadowLake Building, Suite 250, Meridian, ID, 83642, 208-381-7312, [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org)

## Resources

Decoding Dyslexia – ID at [www.decodingdyslexiaidaho.org/resources](http://www.decodingdyslexiaidaho.org/resources)

International Dyslexia Assoc: Fact Sheet on Dyslexia and Related Language-Based Learning Disabilities at [www.interdys.org/FactSheets.htm](http://www.interdys.org/FactSheets.htm)

Bright Solutions for Dyslexia at [www.dys-add.com](http://www.dys-add.com)

The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity at [www.dyslexia.yale.edu](http://www.dyslexia.yale.edu)

National Center for Learning Disabilities at [www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)