

Parent Information Guide

Dyslexia is a neurobiological learning disability that primarily impacts reading, spelling, and writing. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and poor decoding abilities. It is **not** a reflection of intelligence, vision, or a child's desire to learn. With structured literacy support and appropriate classroom accommodations, students with dyslexia excel and thrive academically.

Strengths of Dyslexic Learners

- **Big-Picture Thinking:** Connecting disparate ideas, recognizing overarching patterns, and mastering global reasoning.
- **Spatial & 3D Awareness:** Visualizing complex shapes, spaces, and designs (often excelling in engineering, architecture, and art).
- **Creativity & Innovation:** Approaching problems from unconventional angles to discover unique, outside-the-box solutions.
- **Narrative Reasoning:** Exceptional storytelling skills and a strong ability to learn through vivid experiences and examples.
- **High Empathy & Social Skills:** Strong emotional intelligence, great leadership qualities, and deep empathy for others.

Signs to Watch For (By Grade Level)

■ Younger Students (Pre-K – Grade 2)	■ Older Students (Grade 3 – High School)
• Delay in talking or learning vocabulary. • Difficulty recognizing or generating rhyming words. • Trouble learning or naming letters of the alphabet. • Difficulty matching letters to their correct sounds. • Mispronouncing familiar words (e.g., "beddybear"). • Struggles to isolate individual sounds within words.	• Very slow, labored, and exhausting oral reading. • Frequently skipping or misreading small words (<i>the, of</i>). • Extreme difficulty with spelling and writing tasks. • Trouble finishing reading assignments on time. • Disproportionate difficulty learning a foreign language. • Avoidance of reading aloud or reading for pleasure.

How Parents Can Help at Home

- **Read Aloud Daily:** Read to your child regardless of their age. This builds vocabulary, background knowledge, and comprehension without the mechanics of decoding text acting as a barrier.
- **Embrace Audiobooks:** Use accessible text services to give your child access to grade-level literature and textbooks, helping them foster a continuous love for storytelling and complex concepts.
- **Praise Effort and Resilience:** Explicitly praise the hard work and focus your child puts into reading, rather than just emphasizing grades. Remind them that their brain works beautifully and uniquely.
- **Nurture Outside Passions:** Ensure your child has dedicated time to explore their natural strengths—whether that means sports, art, music, building, coding, logic puzzles, or theater.
- **Partner with Your School:** Connect with your child's classroom teacher or the campus dyslexia specialist to discuss explicit structured literacy instruction and evidence-based classroom accommodations.