

WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?

Dyslexia is a learning difference. It's a general term covering difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters, and other symbols. However, dyslexia doesn't affect intelligence. It's simply a difference in how the brain processes information.

IS...

Common.

Approximately 15–20% of people have symptoms of dyslexia. It's the number one cause of illiteracy and school dropout.

On a continuum.

Dyslexia varies in severity and with the specific types of strengths and challenges people experience.

Something that runs in families.

Dyslexia has a genetic component. If a parent has dyslexia, their children may also.

Possible to identify as early as preschool.

Screening for the risk factors of dyslexia in young children helps identify risk so that they can receive support before they struggle.

Lifelong.

Dyslexia isn't something that is "cured." However, the impact and experience can change at different stages in a person's life. Dyslexic learners can become highly successful students and adults.

ISN'T...

Reflective of intelligence or potential.

Dyslexia occurs in people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels. Dyslexic learners can be very bright.

Temporary.

It's not something that's grown out of. With support and appropriate teaching methods, the many challenges can be overcome.

A visual issue.

It's a neurological difference. Dyslexics "see" the same thing as everyone else, but dyslexic brains process the information differently.

The same for everyone.

While dyslexic learners share some common difficulties, each person has a diverse set of challenges and strengths.

Only negative.

The brain differences cause specific struggles with language but also advantages in other areas like creativity and problem solving.

COMMON MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

MISCONCEPTION

Reading is a natural process.

Helping a child with dyslexia is only about remediating weaknesses.

All children will learn to read eventually if given the time.

Dyslexia only affects reading and writing.

Dyslexic learners won't ever read well or love reading.

People with dyslexia can only do certain jobs.

REALITY

Reading was invented by humans. It is a complex process requiring multiple parts of the brain to work together. Learning to read requires training.

Remediation in areas of weakness is necessary. However, for a child to thrive, identifying and playing to strengths is critical.

Children with dyslexia require explicit, structured reading instruction. The earlier they receive this, the faster they will make progress. In fact, the structured literacy approaches that dyslexic learners need benefit all children.

Dyslexia can affect memory, organization, timekeeping, multitasking, and communication.

With the right teaching, dyslexic learners can learn to read well. While they may read relatively slowly, many grow to love reading and writing.

Dyslexia does not determine career path. While there are some common paths, like entrepreneurship and creative fields, a person with dyslexia can pursue any field.