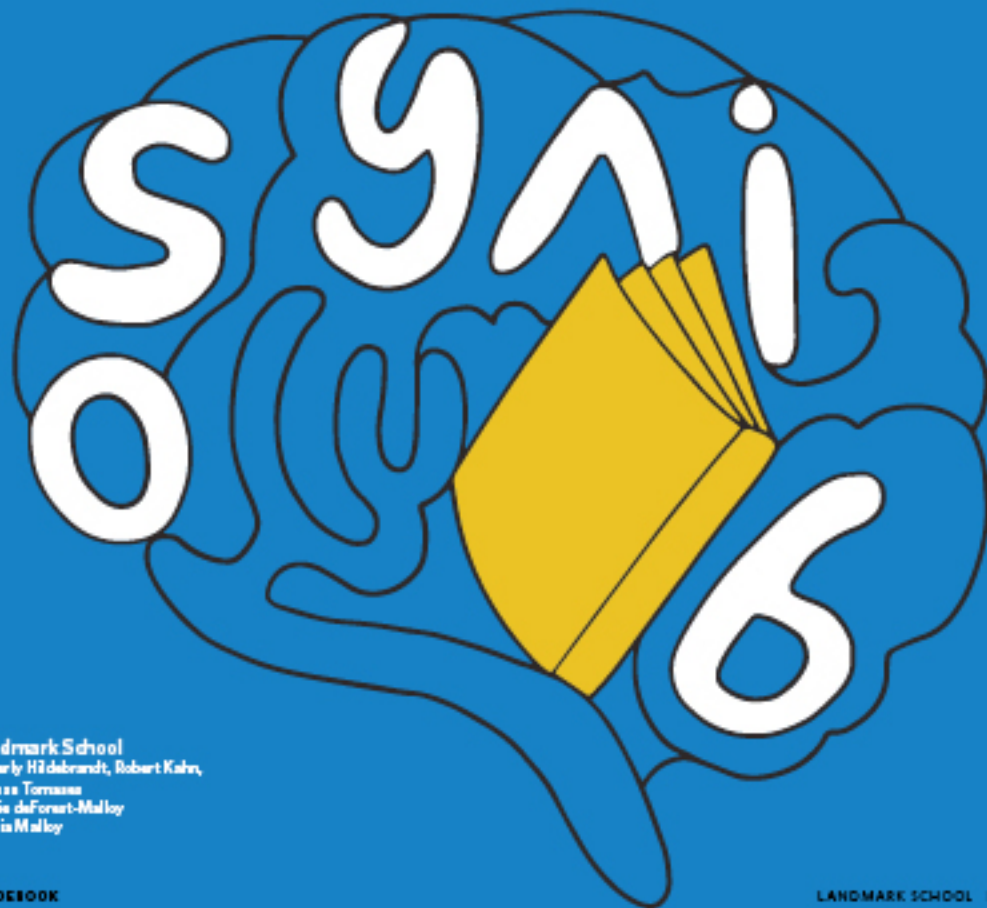


What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a common difference in the way the brain is wired to learn to read, write, and spell.

by Kimberly Hildebrandt



© 2023 by Landmark School
Contributors: Kimberly Hildebrandt, Robert Kahn,
Chrissy Kannev, Susan Tomases
Designed by Melissa deForest-Malloy
Illustrations by Olivia Malloy

Although the characteristics and degree of dyslexia vary, **PEOPLE WITH DYSLEXIA GENERALLY HAVE TROUBLE MATCHING THE SOUNDS OF LANGUAGE TO THEIR SYMBOLS.** This makes reading challenging, along with other essential literacy skills, such as writing and spelling.



The human brain develops speech naturally, **BUT WE ARE NOT "WIRED" TO READ.** Our brains must construct this ability. While people with dyslexia don't "grow out of it," with proper instruction, especially when provided early in life, people with dyslexia can learn to read.¹

Dyslexia has no bearing on intelligence. And although these individuals learn differently, **THEY OFTEN EXCEL IN ANALYTICAL THINKING, COMPLEX PROBLEM-SOLVING, INNOVATING, CREATIVITY, AND MORE.**



MORE ABOUT DYSLEXIA

Frequently Asked Questions
International Dyslexia Association



What Is Dyslexia?
The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity



¹ We Were Never Born to Read
Falling Walls



Signs of Dyslexia

Dyslexia looks different for everyone, but here are some common signs, some of which may be recognized in children as young as three years old.²

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

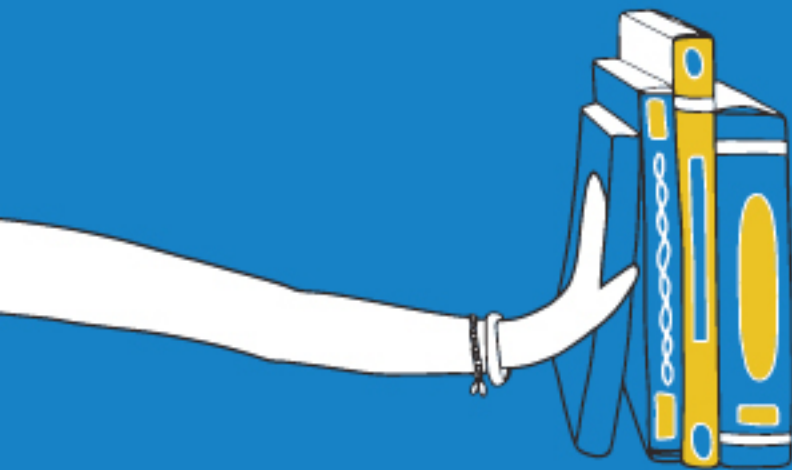
Difficulty recognizing sounds in words, such as:

- * **segmenting words** into their parts
(e.g. *cowboy* broken into *cow-boy*)
- * **blending individual sounds** into larger words
(e.g. /b/ /a/ /t/ into *bat*)
- * **manipulating sounds**
(e.g. *what's bat* without the /b/ at the beginning?)
- * difficulty **recognizing rhyme**

DECODING

Difficulty matching letter names to their sounds (e.g. the letters "ph" make the sound /f/) or, in older children, sounding out unfamiliar words.





OTHER SIGNS IN OLDER CHILDREN

Sometimes dyslexia is not recognized until a child is older, when peers are already reading. Additional signs of dyslexia may include⁴:

- * **Frustration**, such as avoiding reading, or complaining that reading is too hard
- * **Slow and laborious reading** (poor reading fluency)
- * **Spelling/writing** that is unusually difficult to decipher
- * **Difficulty understanding** or remembering what one reads or summarizing a story
- * Having trouble understanding idioms or puns or **not “getting the joke”**
- * Frequently **making the same mistakes**

OTHER SIGNS IN ADULTS

There are many adults who read through these signs and realize “Oh! This was me!”

While many adults with dyslexia have found strategies to help them be successful, some may still struggle with reading and writing. They may be knowledgeable about a topic and able to express their ideas verbally, but not be able to write them down.³

THESE STRUGGLES, WHEN NOT IDENTIFIED AND REMEDIATED, CAN LEAD TO ANXIETY AND LOW SELF-ESTEEM.

Even as an adult, if you suspect you have dyslexia, getting identified can be freeing and help you find support and more effective strategies to help with reading, writing, processing language, and learning.

READ MORE!

²Early Markers of Dyslexia
Landmark360



³What Is Dyslexia?
DyslexiaUK



⁴Signs of dyslexia at different ages
Understood.org

