




INCLUSIVE 4-H

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Youth and Dyslexia



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What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning disability that causes problems with reading, writing, and spelling. It typically occurs in those with average or above-average intelligence. Two other related learning disabilities include dyscalculia (difficulty understanding math concepts and solving math problems) and dysgraphia (difficulty writing in a defined space).

What Causes Dyslexia?

In a person who is dyslexic, the right hemisphere of the brain is used to process reading as compared to the typical left. The cause of this is unknown, but there is a genetic link as it tends to run in families. However, even without a family history of dyslexia a person may still have the disability. Other factors that may contribute to dyslexia include environment, education, and upbringing.

What are the Symptoms of Dyslexia?

There are many symptoms of dyslexia that occur at different stages in the life cycle. It is important to note that many children who are not dyslexic may occasionally demonstrate some of these symptoms. Children with dyslexia will demonstrate the following symptoms much of the time:

Early childhood:

- Trouble learning to speak,
- Difficulty rhyming,
- Trouble learning the alphabet, numbers, and days of the week,
- Difficulty telling a story in the correct order,
- Trouble learning connection between letters and sounds.

Middle childhood and on:

- Reads and writes letters in wrong order or backwards
E.g. Transpositions – “felt” for “left”
Substitutions – “house” for “home”
Word reversals – “dog” for “god”
Letter reversals – “b” for “d”, writes “bog” instead of “dog”
Inversions – “w” for “m” or “p” for “b”

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