DYSLEXIA

Oxford Advanced Learner´s Dictionary, 8th edition: uncountable noun - **a slight disorder of the brain that causes difficulty in reading and spelling, for example, but does not affect intelligence**

examples: He is **dyslexic (adj).** We offer writing courses for **dyslexics (noun).**

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/signs-symptoms/could-your-child-have/does-my-child-have-dyslexia>

Your child struggles with reading. Maybe [sounding out words](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/reading-issues/decoding-what-it-is-and-how-it-works)  is a challenge. Or reading without making a lot of mistakes. Could this be [dyslexia](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/dyslexia-in-children) ?

If you think your child has dyslexia, you may worry about what it means. There are a few things to know.

First, **dyslexia is very common**. Second, kids who have it are **just as smart as other kids**. And third, there are **proven methods for teaching kids** with dyslexia to read and improve skills.

Here are steps to take if you’re concerned your child has dyslexia.

1. **Learn the signs of dyslexia — and the myths.** Reading involves many [skills](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/reading-issues/6-essential-skills-needed-for-reading-comprehension) , and kids can struggle with more than one. Plus, reading challenges show up in different ways as kids get older. Explore an age-by-age list of [signs of dyslexia in kids](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/signs-symptoms/could-your-child-have/checklist-signs-of-dyslexia-at-different-ages) . And debunk [common myths about dyslexia](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/common-myths-about-dyslexia-reading-issues) .
2. **Look for patterns.** Watch for what happens when your child reads, and take notes on what you see. You may be able to [pick up patterns](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/understanding-childs-challenges/observing-taking-notes/the-benefits-of-observing-your-child-and-taking-notes) . For example, are certain words harder for your child to sound out than others? The more you notice, the more information you have to share with others.
3. **Find out what the teacher is seeing.** Tell your child’s teacher what you’ve noticed at home, and ask if the same things are happening at school. Sharing information gives you both a better idea of what your child is struggling with so you can get the right support.
4. **Let your child know there’s help.** Struggling in school can make kids feel alone and bad about themselves. Let your child know you’re working with the teacher to find the best ways to help. [Knowing that skills can improve](https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/building-on-strengths/download-growth-mindset-activities-for-kids) can help your child stay motivated.
5. **Know where to go for answers.** Teachers and health care providers are great resources. They can suggest steps to take to find out if your child has dyslexia, like a [free evaluation at school](https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/evaluations/evaluation-basics/learning-about-evaluations) .
6. **Find ways to help at home.** There are lots of ways to build reading skills at home. Discover [strategies you can try](https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/encouraging-reading-writing/how-to-help-your-child-with-reading) . But don’t just focus on challenges. Help your child [celebrate big and small successes](https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/celebrating-successes/download-your-childs-accomplishment-box-starter-kit) in reading or any other activity.
7. **Build a support network.** As you take steps to help your child, it’s important for *you* to have support, too. Try to be open about your child’s challenges with people you trust. You can also connect with other families in the secure [Understood Community](https://community.understood.org).