

Dyslexia signs at different ages

Having dyslexia doesn't mean people aren't smart. It means they have trouble with reading and other skills that involve language.

Preschool

- Mispronouncing words, like saying *beddy tear* instead of *teddy bear*
- Saying *thing* and *stuff* instead of naming common objects
- Trouble learning nursery rhymes or singing the alphabet
- Telling stories that are hard to follow
- Difficulty following directions with multiple steps

Grades K–2

- Trouble learning letter names and remembering the sounds they make
- Confusing letters that look similar (like *b* and *d*) or sound similar (like *f* and *v*)
- Struggling to read familiar words (like *cat*), especially if there aren't pictures
- Substituting words when reading aloud, like *house* when the story says *home*
- Trouble separating the sounds in words and blending sounds to make words
- Struggling to remember how words are spelled

Grades 3–5

- Confusing or skipping small words like *for* and *of* when reading aloud
- Trouble sounding out new words and recognizing common ones
- Struggling to explain what happened in a story or answer questions about it
- Frequently making the same kinds of mistakes, like reversing letters
- Spelling the same word correctly and incorrectly in the same exercise
- Avoiding reading whenever possible or getting frustrated or upset when reading

Tweens, teens, and adults

- Reading slowly or skipping small words or parts of words when reading aloud
- Often searching for words or using substitutes like *gate* instead of *fence*
- Trouble “getting” jokes or understanding idioms, puns, and abbreviations
- Taking a very long time to complete reading assignments
- Having an easier time answering questions about text that's read aloud