



Dyslexia Checklist

Below are some of the most common characteristics of dyslexia. Remember that dyslexia happens along a spectrum so your child may not exhibit every characteristic listed.

To use this checklist, first mark any general characteristics and strengths you have observed in your child. Then, find your child's age/grade and mark any characteristics you have observed or what has been reported to you by your child's teacher.

Finally, give us a call or send an email to set up a time to talk through the results!

General Characteristics:

- ☐ Any family history of reading, writing, spelling difficulties
- ☐ Any difficulties during pregnancy or premature birth
- ☐ Reoccurring ear infections or hearing loss
- ☐ May struggle to remember multi-step directions
- ☐ May struggle to recall particular words
- ☐ Low self-esteem or feeling "stupid"
- ☐ Anxiety or behavioral issues tied to reading/writing
- ☐ Work avoidance



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General Strengths:

- ☐ Capacity to learn, especially if information is presented orally
- ☐ Oral vocabulary skills can be average to above-average
- ☐ Excels in academic areas not dependent on reading/writing ie. math, science, social studies, arts, sports, etc.
- ☐ High emotional intelligence and/or resiliency
- ☐ Out of the box thinker
- ☐ Good reasoning skills
- ☐ Good spatial reasoning skills

Characteristics by Age

Preschool:

- ☐ Will reverse or leave off sounds in words *ie. pushetti for spaghetti*
- ☐ Difficulty learning and remembering the names of letters and the sounds
- ☐ Difficulty with word play games
- ☐ Difficulty with rhyming or understanding nursery rhymes
- ☐ Little to no interest in print materials

K-2nd:

- ☐ Difficulty in remembering letters and sounds
- ☐ Difficulty blending sounds to a whole word
- ☐ Difficulty decoding and spelling words
- ☐ Difficulty reading common sight words
- ☐ Guesses or skips words when reading
- ☐ Complains about how school is hard or complains of stomach aches/headaches
- ☐ Avoids reading or writing related tasks



3rd - 6th:

- ☐ Slower reading fluency
- ☐ Avoidance of reading and writing tasks
- ☐ Inability to decode more complex words
- ☐ Uses simple words in writing that are easy to spell
- ☐ Comprehension issues when having to read text independently
- ☐ Avoids reading out loud
- ☐ Struggles to finish tests on time
- ☐ Takes longer than would be expected to complete assignments

Middle School/High School:

- ☐ Uncomfortable reading out-loud and slow fluency
- ☐ Have to read text multiple times before it makes sense
- ☐ Doesn't have a strategy for reading longer, more complex words.
- ☐ Struggle to keep up with homework
- ☐ Avoidance of writing tasks
- ☐ Difficulty learning a foreign language



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Resources:

The Many Strengths of Dyslexics. (n.d.). Dyslexia Help at the University of Michigan.

<http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/dyslexics/learn-about-dyslexia/what-is-dyslexia/the-many-strengths-of-dyslexics>

Wendling, B. J., & Mather, N. (2011). *Essentials of Dyslexia Assessment and* 1st ed.). Wiley.

Shaywitz, J., MD, & Shaywitz, J., MD. (2020). *Overcoming Dyslexia: Second Edition, Completely Revised and Updated*. Van Haren Publishing.



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