

DYSLEXIA, DYSGRAPHIA, AND DYSCALCULIA

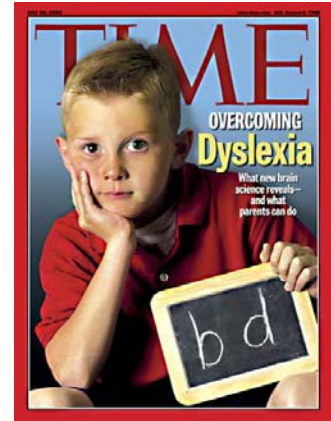
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DYSLEXIA

Dyslexia or specific language difficulties is a term used to describe those children and adults with average or above average intelligence who have severe difficulty in reading, writing and spelling and sometimes math. One out of fifteen people are dyslexic.

Characteristics of Dyslexia:

1. Severe difficulty in remembering printed words or symbols.
2. Illegible handwriting.
3. Poor spelling skills and frequent spelling errors.
4. Reversal of letters or improper letter sequences (for example b for d).
5. Poorly written composition.
6. Difficulty reading aloud.
7. Often skips lines while reading.
8. Difficulty copying from the board in a classroom.
9. Unable to count backwards from 100 down to 0.
10. Confusion with directions (for example playing on a team).
11. A poor, slow, fatiguing reading ability prone to compensatory head tilting, near-far focusing, and finger pointing.
12. Letter and word blurring, doubling, movement, scrambling, omission, insertion, size change, etc.
13. Poor concentration, distractibility, light sensitivity (photophobia), tunnel vision, delayed visual and phonetic processing, etc.



Some characterize dyslexia as a reading problem, when in fact dyslexics have problems with other skills as well such as:



1. **Writing-** Messy, poorly angulated, or drifting handwriting prone to size, spacing, and letter-sequencing errors.
2. **Spelling, Math, Memory, and Grammar-** Memory instability for spelling, grammar, math, names, dates, and lists, or sequences such as the alphabet, the days of the week and months of the year, and directions.
3. **Speech-** Speech disorders such as slurring, stuttering, minor articulation errors, poor word recall, auditory-input and motor-output speech lags.
4. **Direction-** Right/left and related directional uncertainty.
5. **Time-** Delay in learning to tell time.

In some cases it might also affect behavior, mood, self worth, and fears as described below:

6. **Concentration and Activity** - Impaired concentration, distractibility, hyperactivity, or overactivity
7. **Balance and Coordination** - Difficulties with balance and coordination functions, i.e., walking, running, skipping, hopping, tying shoelaces, and buttoning buttons.
8. **Self-esteem** - Feeling stupid, ugly, incompetent, brainless.

Astonishing Facts About Reading:

1. 90% of students who are in a head start or tutorial program in preschool or before kindergarten become better readers.
2. Identifying shapes at an early age helps children with letters and reading.

Dyslexia and learning disabilities are often looked at as two different things, when in fact they are not. Dyslexia is made up of varied symptoms differing in intensity, which is why some have problems with reading and some have problems in other areas. People with Dyslexia or a learning disability often suffer from a single scramble of the inner ear, and in some cases this might also be a cause of ADD/ADHD.

DYSGRAPHIA

Dysgraphia is a learning disability that affects writing abilities. Most common difficulties with Dysgraphia are spelling, poor handwriting and trouble putting thoughts together on paper. Dysgraphia is a processing disorder.

Here are some warning signs of Dysgraphia:

1. Tight awkward pencil grip and body position.
2. Illegible handwriting.
3. Tiring quickly while writing.
4. High levels of resistance and frustrations while writing.
5. Saying words out loud while writing.
6. Unfinished or omitted words in sentences.
7. Difficulty with sentence structure and grammar.
8. Large gap between written ideas and understanding demonstrated through speech.

DYSCALCULIA

A learning disability with math such as the following:

1. Shows difficulty understanding concepts or place value, quantity, number lines, positive and negative value, and carrying and borrowing.
2. Difficulty understanding and completing word problems.
3. Difficulty with adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing.
4. Exhibits difficulty using steps involved in math operations.
5. Challenged making change or handling money.

Strategies we use at Armenta Learning Academy for all Special Needs:

1. Allow manipulatives as a kinesthetic learning opportunity to create authentic meaning and learning.
2. Small ratio and pull out for 1:1 assistance when needed.
3. Flexible scheduling to meet individual needs of the family.
4. Multisensory approach to meet all learning needs.

There are many ways to help students with learning disabilities such as Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia to achieve success. At Armenta Learning Academy we provide accommodations, modifications and remediation, to assure understanding and enthusiasm for subject material to reach their high academic potential.