

Types of Learning Disabilities

Dyslexia (Reading Disorder)

Dyslexia is a learning disability characterized by problems in expressive or receptive, oral or written language. Problems may emerge in reading, spelling, writing, speaking, or listening. The person with dyslexia has problems translating language to thought (as in listening or reading) or thought to language (as in writing or speaking).

There is no single profile of dyslexia. Nevertheless, it is often true that despite average to gifted intelligence, people with dyslexia have trouble speaking, reading, writing, spelling, or calculating. They may not know right from left or how to organize. They often have trouble paying attention and remembering. These problems affect every aspect of a person's life, and make it difficult, if not impossible, for many to complete their education in an ordinary classroom.

Some Common Signs of Dyslexia

Few people with dyslexia exhibit all the signs of the disorder. Some early signs are:

- Difficulty learning to talk
- Difficulty listening and following directions
- Difficulty remembering
- Difficulty pronouncing words correctly or expressing ideas clearly

Once a child starts first or second grade, other signs are:

- Difficulty learning the alphabet
- Lack of awareness of sounds in words, sound order, rhymes, or sequence of syllables
- Difficulty decoding words – single word identification
- Difficulty encoding words – spelling
- Difficulty with sequencing and memory of number, of letters in words, when reading or writing, EX: b-d, sing-sign, left-felt, soiled- solid, 12-21
- Problems with reading comprehension
- Imprecise or incomplete interpretation of language that is heard
- Difficulty expressing thoughts orally
- Confusion about directions in space or time (right and left, up and down, early and late, yesterday and tomorrow, months and days)
- Confusion about knowing right from left
- Similar problems among relatives
- Difficulty with handwriting, poor pencil grip and messy handwriting
- Difficulty in mathematics – often related to sequencing of steps or directionality or the language of mathematics