



Symptoms of Dyslexia

Screening Checklist

 ALL ABOUT *Reading*

 ALL ABOUT *Spelling*



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Hi, my name is Marie Rippel and I'm the author of the *All About® Reading* and *All About® Spelling* programs.

Different people have different signs and symptoms of dyslexia. There is a wide variation, and the symptoms can range from mild to severe.

It's important to note that a child can have many of these symptoms without actually being dyslexic. If a systematic phonics method was not used for reading and spelling instruction, the child may simply lack the skills necessary to read and write fluently.



When students are taught using the multisensory approach used by the *All About Reading* and *All About Spelling* programs, the symptoms of dyslexia can be significantly improved, and may even completely disappear.

If you have any questions at all, please call us at 715-477-1976, or email us at support@allaboutlearningpress.com. My staff and I are passionate about helping children read and spell, and we would love to help you.

Make learning a joy!

Marie Rippel

Marie Rippel
Founder, All About Learning® Press, Inc.

Below you'll find a list of dyslexia symptoms. Displaying *a few* of these symptoms does not automatically mean a child has dyslexia. However, if *many* of the symptoms are displayed, the child may have dyslexia.

Please note: This list is a simple preliminary screening and is not intended to replace professional diagnostic tools.

Reading Problems

- Loses place on the page, skips lines, or rereads lines.
- Reads words in the wrong order.
- Skips small words such as *a, the, to, of, were,* and *from*.
- Recognizes a word on one page but not on the next page.
- Inserts extra letters in a word when reading. For example, may read *tail* as *trail*. The misread word often has the same beginning and ending letters as the target word.
- Deletes letters in a word when reading. For example, may read *sag* instead of *sang*.
Again, the misread word often has the same beginning and ending letters as the target word.
- Switches the order of letters in a word. For example, may read *mug* as *gum*.
- Substitutes words with similar meanings when reading stories. For example, may read *said* instead of *shouted*.
- Substitutes similar-looking words, such as *house* for *horse*.



More Resources

We have a compilation of dyslexia and struggling learner resources on one easy page. Find e-books and articles to help by visiting the web address below.

<http://bit.ly/Dyslexia-Resources>

- Ignores punctuation when reading.
- Makes up part of the story based on the illustrations or context clues instead of reading the actual words on the page.
- Reads at a level substantially below that of peers.
- Demonstrates poor reading comprehension.
- Has difficulty reading single words on a flashcard.
- Is fatigued after reading for a short time.

Spelling Problems

- Inserts extra letters in a word when spelling. For example, may write *tail* as *trail*. The misspelled word often has the same beginning and ending letters as the target word.
- Deletes letters in a word when spelling. For example, may write *caft* instead of *craft*. Again, the misspelled word often has the same beginning and ending letters as the target word.
- Switches the order of letters in a word. For example, may write *speical* instead of *special*.
- Has difficulty copying words from another paper or the board. Copies letter by letter, referring to the original copy for almost every letter.
- Produces messy papers, including many crossed-out or erased words.
- Misspells many common words like *said*, *there*, and *does*.
- May be able to spell the words on a spelling test after much studying, but then misspells the same words outside of spelling class.

Sequencing Problems

Students with dyslexia often have difficulty with sequencing (remembering a sequence). This leads to symptoms such as:

- Difficulty remembering the entire alphabet.
- Difficulty following instructions that have more than one step.
- Difficulty remembering the days of the week and months of the year.
- Difficulty remembering phone numbers.
- Difficulty following spoken instructions.

Handwriting Problems

Many dyslexics also have *dysgraphia*, which is a developmental disability that makes it difficult to master handwriting. Dysgraphia can be related in part to sequencing difficulties and in part to fine-motor control. Here are some of the symptoms of dysgraphia:

- Writes slowly and laboriously.
- Creates irregularly shaped letters.
- Grips a pencil improperly.
- Doesn't establish a dominant hand until later than peers. May switch from right to left hand while writing or coloring until after age 7 or 8.
- May write letters in the wrong direction. For example, instead of writing an o in a counterclockwise direction, child may write it in a clockwise direction. Instead of starting the letter l at the top, child may start the letter from the bottom.
- Improperly uses uppercase and lowercase letters.

- Confuses letters with a similar shape, especially the pairs b-d, m-w, and n-u.
- Poorly spaces letters, words, and sentences.
- Handwriting looks “childlike” even into the teen years.

What's Next?

By completing this checklist, you've gained an understanding of the various symptoms that may suggest dyslexia.

Although teaching a child with learning disabilities or struggles may sound difficult, *All About Reading* and *All About Spelling* take the struggle out of learning. Our programs break down learning concepts into easy, bite-sized lessons that are both easy for you to teach and easy for your student to learn.

While I originally developed these programs for my own child who had a hard time learning to read and spell, they've gone on to help over 150,000 children master reading and spelling—even those who were previously diagnosed with a learning disorder.



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