

Warning Signs of Dyslexia*

The biggest warning sign of all is a close relative with dyslexia.

If someone has 3 or more of these warning signs, their difficulties are probably due to dyslexia, and you should get that person tested as soon as possible.

In Preschoolers:

- delayed speech
- mixing up the sounds or syllables in long words.
- chronic ear infections
- severe reactions to childhood illnesses
- consistent confusion of left versus right
- late establishing a dominant hand
- difficulty learning to tie shoes
- trouble memorizing his address, phone number, or the alphabet
- can't create words that rhyme

In Elementary School:

- dysgraphia (the slow, non-automatic handwriting that is difficult to read.)
- letter or number reversals continuing past first grade
- extreme difficulty learning cursive
- slow, choppy, inaccurate reading: guesses based on shape or context skips or misreads prepositions (at, to, of) ignores suffixes can't sound out unknown words
- terrible spelling
- often can't remember sight words (they, were, does) or homonyms (their, they're and there)
- difficulty telling time on a clock with hands
- trouble with math
memorizing multiplication tables
memorizing a sequence of steps
directionality
- extremely messy bedroom, backpack, and desk
- dreads going to school
complains of stomach aches or headaches
may have nightmares about school

In High School:

All of the above symptoms plus:

- limited vocabulary
- extremely poor written expression
large discrepancy between verbal communication and written communication
- unable to master a foreign language
- difficulty reading printed music
- poor grades in many classes
- may drop out of high school

In Adults:

Educational history similar to above, plus:

- slow reader
- may have to read a page 2 or 3 times to understand it
- terrible speller
- difficulty putting thoughts onto paper
dreads writing memos or letters
- still has difficulty with right versus left
- often gets lost, even in a familiar city
- sometimes confuses b and d
especially when tired or sick

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