

Dyslexia Awareness Information

Dyslexia Definition

In 2015, Indiana House Enrolled Act 1108 was signed. This Act gave an official definition for dyslexia. The definition for dyslexia is:

- (1) is neurological in origin and characterized by: (A) difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition; and (B) poor spelling and decoding abilities;*
- (2) typically results from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction;*
- (3) may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge*

General Characteristics of Dyslexia Across the Lifespan

A person with dyslexia struggles with reading and spelling. Dyslexia is a neurological disability with certain characteristics. Every child develops language, reading, and writing at different rates due to numerous factors. The characteristics listed, while well known to indicate dyslexia, they should not be used solely to diagnose it. These dyslexia characteristics range from mild to severe. Dyslexia may be genetics in nature, meaning a person with dyslexia may have a sibling or other relative with dyslexia.

A person with dyslexia may have difficulty with:

- Quickly recalling names of familiar objects list colors, numbers, or letters.
- Remembering the sounds different letters make.
- Spelling common words
- Spelling, by adding letters that do not match with a sound in a word.
- Reading accurately and with speeds.
- Knowing how to read unfamiliar words
- Remembering what is read to them much better than reading it themselves.
- Remembering what they just read.

Strengths of People with Dyslexia

It is important to remember that those with dyslexia do possess many positive characteristics and can and will excel in many areas.

The strengths of those with dyslexia may include:

- Strong visual and spatial abilities
- A mechanical aptitude
- Talents in music, art, and drama
- Special talents in sports
- Ability to see “the big picture” on problems
- Ability to conceptualize abstract ideas
- Highly imaginative and abstract thinking
- Ability to read and understand vocabulary in relation to areas of interest
- Interest in creative writing
- Skills to excel in work that requires logic and math. These jobs include computing, biology, business and entrepreneurship, neuroscience, or engineering and mechanical lines of work.

