

Dyslexia

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a brain-based (neurological) disability.

Individuals with dyslexia have difficulty working with the sounds in language (phonology) and the written form of language (orthography).

Children with dyslexia do not have trouble seeing language, they have trouble manipulating it. They often have difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition.

Myths surrounding Dyslexia

People with dyslexia read words and letters backwards

You can be cured or grow out of dyslexia

People with dyslexia need coloured glasses

People with dyslexia are not as smart as people without dyslexia

Individuals with Dyslexia may...

have a reduced vocabulary in writing or oral skills

avoid activities that involve reading

experience low self-concept and low self-esteem

have difficulties with spelling, writing and reading comprehension

experience increased school-based anxiety

Dyslexia

I think my child has Dyslexia, where to from now?

To get a definitive diagnosis of dyslexia, an evaluation by a psychologist is required. The psychologist will investigate learning strengths and difficulties.

Before a diagnosis of a specific learning disorder in reading (or dyslexia) can be made, it is essential that the child or adult being assessed has received at least six months of intervention focused on improving their reading skills.

Before seeking an assessment or diagnosis of dyslexia it is also important to check eyesight and hearing.

Why diagnose?

With the right intervention and support, children with Dyslexia can become highly successful students and adults.

As a parent, carer or teacher of a child with Dyslexia, we are their most important ally and advocate.

There is a lot we can do to improve their academic success and sense of self-worth.

Dyslexia does not impact on a person's intelligence and is not caused by vision difficulties.

Dyslexia may lead to behaviour problems, low self-esteem, aggression, anxiety and withdrawal from friends, family and teachers.

Resources:

[Dyslexia Association Australia](#)

[Signs of Dyslexia in Children - Fact Sheet • Learning Links](#)

[Dyslexia - SPELD NSW](#)