

Some pointers which may indicate dyslexia

Many of the difficulties listed below are common during a child's first year or two at school. However, if a group of these symptoms persists beyond the time when the average child has grown out of them, they may indicate dyslexia, and expert advice should be sought.

Reading and Spelling

Confusion of letters similar in shape: e.g. d / b; u / n
Confusion of letters similar in sound: e.g. v, f, th; also vowels
Reversals: e.g. was / saw
Transposals: e.g. left / felt; auction / caution
Omission or insertion of words
Repetition of word or phrase
Changing sequence of words: she is / is she
Confusion of small words: of, for, from
Bizarre spelling

Reading

Difficulty in keeping correct place on line
Difficulty in switching from end of line to beginning of next one
No expression, or intonation in wrong place
Difficulty in understanding a passage even if correctly read
Faulty auditory sequencing: Roman merains (remains)
Mispronouncing some words: remember
Difficulty in "sounding out" unfamiliar words

Writing

Foreshortening: rember (remember)
Fusion: up (up)
Repetition of a word or words
Capitals left out, or in the wrong places
i's not dotted, t's not crossed, l's crossed
Badly formed letters, or if shape is correct, formed in unconventional way
Difficulty in keeping on the line
Omission of punctuation, confusion over punctuation and syntax
Odd pencil grip
Difficulty in copying from blackboard

Other Indications

Late in learning to speak
Difficulty in repeating long words: e.g. unanimous, preliminary
Confusion between: right/left; east/west; up/down; etc.
Difficulty in sequencing: alphabet, months of year, numbers, words in a sentence.
Difficulty in learning tables, or doing mental arithmetic
Slow in looking up words in a dictionary, or names in a telephone book
Poor concentration and memory
Difficulty in interpreting other symbols: figures, notes in music, morse, etc.
Late in learning to tell time, and in such things as tying shoelaces, etc.
Difficulty in understanding concepts such as: in/on/under; yesterday/tomorrow
Other poor readers or bad spellers in the family
Left-handedness, or mixed laterality in the child, or members of his family
Particular artistic or mechanical talents.