



Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners in Texas A Fact Sheet for Consumers

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability caused by the brain's inability to recognize words, letters, symbols, and/or sounds. These difficulties can cause repeated spelling errors, reading problems, and trouble sounding out words. People with dyslexia often have trouble linking letter symbols to sounds.

What are common characteristics of dyslexia?

(It is important to remember that many people without dyslexia may have 1 or 2 of the following characteristics. People with dyslexia usually exhibit *multiple* characteristics that may or may not be listed below.)

- Difficulty pronouncing words
- Difficulty reading and reading comprehension
- Difficulty spelling
- Difficulty learning letter names and their given sounds
- Difficulty spelling words by sounding them out
- Difficulty sequencing letters in words
- Difficulty writing
- Difficulty with rapid naming
- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty understanding right and left handedness
- Difficulty in mathematics

I think my child is dyslexic. What do I do?

Educate yourself about dyslexia, testing, and instructional methodologies. You may want to talk to your child's teacher or local school's reading specialist. Discuss your concerns and describe your child's behavior in detail. Give specific examples. You may have to write a formal request to your child's school asking for a dyslexia or specific learning disability test. You can also look for local resources regarding diagnosing and treating dyslexia. For more information, you may want to contact the Academic Language Therapy Association at www.altaread.org, the International Dyslexia Association at www.interdys.org, the Learning Disabilities Association of America at www.ldaamerica.org, and the Learning Disabilities Association of Texas at www.ldat.org. A roster of Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners may be found on the following website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia/rosters/.

What questions should I ask my child's school?

How can I determine if my child has a learning disability? How do I get my child tested for dyslexia? What services and accommodations are available to help my child with his or her schoolwork, homework, and exams? What is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973? What is an Individualized Education Plan?

How is dyslexia treated?

Every person is unique and may require a specific technique. Multisensory (hear, see, say, and touch) techniques are often used to actively engage the student in the learning process by using multiple senses at the same time. You may want to review the Texas Education Agency's *Dyslexia Handbook* for more information. You can access the handbook through the following link: www.tea.state.tx.us.

Can dyslexia be cured?

Dyslexia is not a disease. However, with early identification and proper instruction, most people with dyslexia live happy, normal lives.

Who are Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners?

Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners are dyslexia remediation professionals who have been licensed by the state of Texas to provide dyslexia services. To attain licensure, they have met the minimum standards set forth by the Texas Department of State Health Services. These standards include passing an examination, completing classroom training, completing clinical experience, and conducting demonstration lessons. In order to maintain licensure, they are required to complete continuing education classes biennially.

Are there resources for adults with dyslexia?

Yes, many learning centers do offer services for adults. For more information, you will need to contact your local learning centers directly. If you do not have any local resources, you may want to contact the Academic Language Therapy Association, the Learning Disabilities Association of America, the Learning Disabilities Association of Texas, and the International Dyslexia Association. A roster of Licensed Dyslexia Therapists and Licensed Dyslexia Practitioners may be found on the following website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/dyslexia/rosters/.

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