

Dyslexia Defined

"Dyslexia is an island of weakness in a sea of strengths"
- Overcoming Dyslexia, p58; Sally Shaywitz, 2003

*Working Definition of Dyslexia from IDA: International Dyslexia Association. Perspectives Winter, 2003 (Vol. 29, No.1)
Replaces 1994 IDA definition in the Dyslexia Handbook.*

"Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result 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. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth in vocabulary and background knowledge."

The Clinical Characteristics of Dyslexia

- Underlying Deficit *Phonological Processing (noticing, thinking about, and manipulating individual speech sounds)*
- Primary Characteristics-
 - Inaccurate and inefficient single word recognition*
 - Difficulty sounding out (decoding) new or unfamiliar words*
 - Inaccurate spelling*
- Secondary Characteristics
 - Slow and inaccurate oral reading of text*
 - Poor reading comprehension*
 - Variable difficulties with symbol code for reading and writing including:*
 - * Alphabet letter names
 - * Letter-sound associations
 - * Letter forms and direction in writing
 - Variable difficulty with written expression*
- Other Language-Based Disorders
 - Difficulty finding the right spoken word or rapidly retrieving names*
 - Difficulty repeating and pronouncing words precisely*
 - Difficulty with verbal short term memory*
- Co-existing Complications or Assets
 - Attention*
 - Mathematics*
 - Motor Coordination*
 - Oral Language*
 - Reasoning*
 - Visual-Spatial*