

Dyslexia Awareness: Understanding and Supporting at School and Home

*A Guide for Educators, Parents, and
Caregivers*

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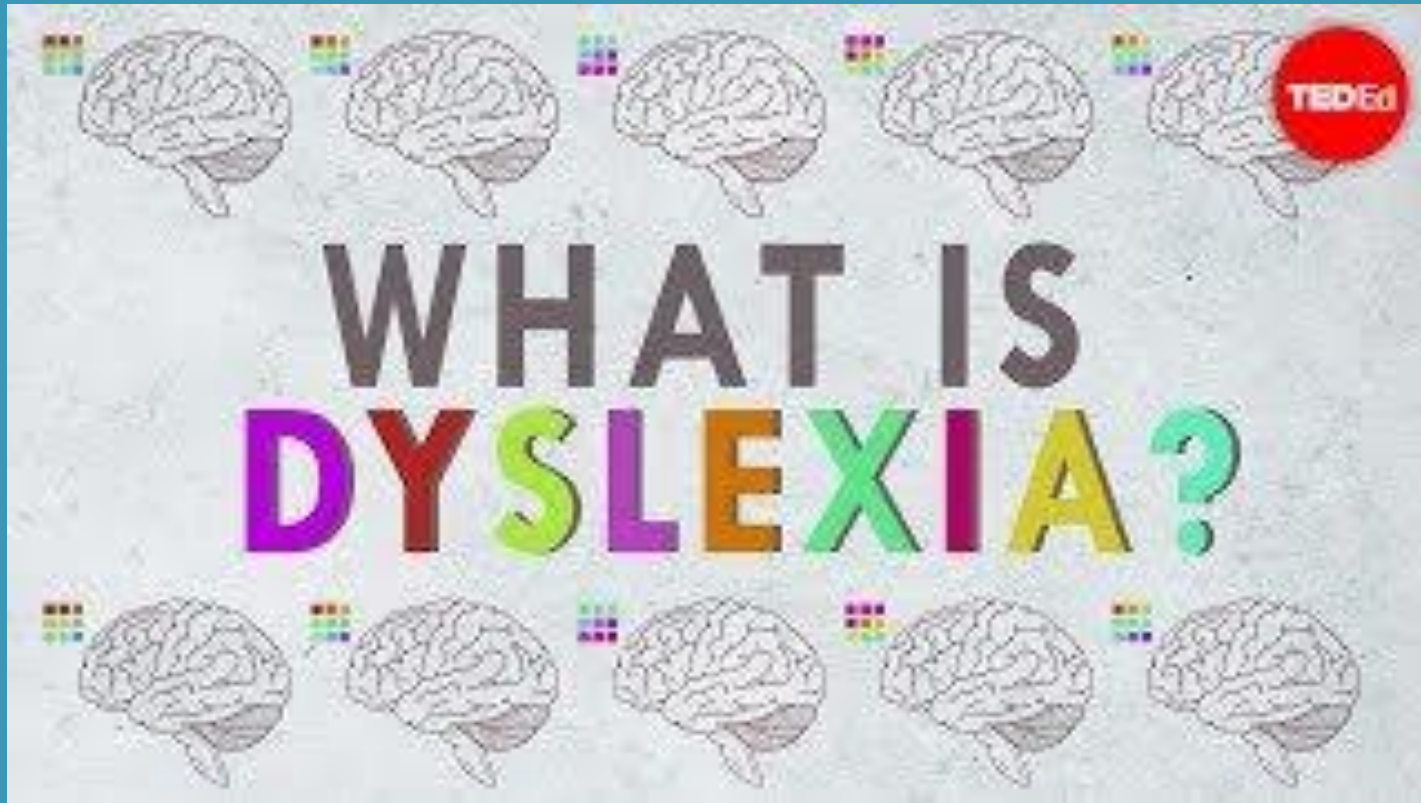


What is Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a common learning difference that affects the ability to read, spell, write, and sometimes speak. It is not linked to intelligence but rather how the brain processes language.

- **Key Facts:**
 - Affects 1 in 5 people worldwide.
 - Varies in severity.
 - Often diagnosed in childhood, but can be recognised later in life.
- People with dyslexia may struggle with...
 - Organisation
 - Reading and spelling
 - Writing
 - Maths
 - Telling the time
- **Common Misconceptions:**
 - It's not just about reversing letters.
 - Dyslexia is not related to laziness or lack of effort.

What is Dyslexia



Simulation

What does Dyslexia look like?



- **Early Signs (Preschool Age):**
 - Delayed speech development.
 - Difficulty learning nursery rhymes or recognising letters.
- **School-Age Signs:**
 - Struggling to match letters with sounds.
 - Slow reading speed and frequent guessing at words.
 - Problems with spelling, even familiar words.
 - Difficulty following sequences (e.g., days of the week, alphabet).
- **Emotional/Behavioral Signs:**
 - Low self-esteem.
 - Frustration with reading tasks.
 - Avoiding reading aloud or writing.

Challenges in the classroom.



- **Reading:**
 - Difficulty decoding words.
 - Slow processing of text and comprehension.
- **Writing:**
 - Poor spelling, inconsistent writing style.
 - Issues with grammar and organizing ideas.
- **Other Cognitive Skills:**
 - Difficulty with memorization, time management, or organization.
 - Trouble following complex instructions.

Strengths.



Dyslexic individuals often excel in areas that require creativity, problem-solving, and big-picture thinking.

Creative Thinking

- Innovative problem-solving.
- Generating original ideas.
- Approaching tasks from new perspectives.

Visual and Spatial Awareness

- Understanding 3D shapes and visualizing objects in space.
- Careers like engineering, architecture, and design where spatial skills are crucial.

Holistic Thinking (Big Picture)

- Dyslexic thinkers often see the big picture and make connections that others may miss.
- They can integrate complex ideas, identify patterns, and connect dots between seemingly unrelated topics.

Storytelling and Creativity

- Their ability to think in pictures can be advantageous when crafting stories or communicating complex ideas visually.

School's role

- **School-Wide Practices:**
 - Raise awareness about dyslexia among staff and students.
 - Develop a culture of **acceptance and understanding**.
 - Provide teacher training on **dyslexia-friendly teaching strategies**.
- **Parent-Teacher Collaboration:**
 - Regularly update parents on progress and strategies used.
 - Work together to adapt homework and support learning at home.
 - Encourage open communication and problem-solving as a team.

Effective strategies for the classroom.



1. Use **multi-sensory teaching methods** (e.g., visual, auditory, and kinesthetic).
2. Provide **extra time** for reading and writing tasks.
3. Encourage **assistive technology**, such as text-to-speech software, audiobooks, and speech-to-text tools.
4. Break instructions into **small steps** and provide **visual aids**.
5. Offer **alternative ways to demonstrate knowledge** (e.g., oral presentations, videos).

Technology

- **Reading and Writing Support:**
 - Audi books through Raz kids and Epic books.
 - Read theory website to develop reading comprehension.
 - Nessy learning platform - Hairy reading, Nessy spelling and reading, Nessy fingers - develop keyboard skills and Writing beach - spelling, punctuation and grammar.
 - Learning Village - reading, writing, vocabulary.
 - IDL literacy
 - Clicker 8 - Writing support with audio.

Parents role

- **Create a Positive Environment**
 - **Encourage strengths:** Focus on your child's talents and successes in areas where they excel, such as creativity, problem-solving, or sports.
 - **Celebrate small wins:** Recognise and celebrate every step of progress, no matter how small, to boost your child's self-esteem.
 - **Be patient and understanding**
- **Reading and Writing:**
 - Read **together daily** (use audiobooks alongside text).
 - Provide **phonics-based games** and activities to reinforce sound patterns.
 - Break homework into **manageable chunks** and offer regular breaks.
 - Focus on the progress and effort not the outcome.
- **Build Confidence:**
 - Celebrate **small achievements** to build self-esteem.
 - Encourage the child to **express feelings** about their learning challenges.
 - Focus on **strengths** in other areas (e.g., creativity, problem-solving).
- **Routine and Organisation:**
 - Establish clear routines for schoolwork.
 - Help the child **organize materials** with color-coding and visual reminders.

Follow your
passion!

FAMOUS PEOPLE
WITH
DYSLEXIA

LEE KUAN YEW
Former Prime Minister

AGATHA CHRISTIE
Writer and Playwright

STEVEN SPIELBERG
Director

MUHAMMAD ALI
World Heavyweight
Champion Boxer

SAM TAN
Minister of State

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
Actress

RICHARD BRANSON
Entrepreneur

JAMIE OLIVER
Celebrity Chef

JONY IVE
Apple's Chief Design Officer

JAM HSIAO
Singer

DAS DAS International

Discussion
and
questions.



**WHAT IF WE ASKED AI TO CREATE
LIKE DYSLEXIC THINKERS?**

Discussion
and
questions.



A promotional graphic for 'Understanding DYSLEXIA'. At the top left is a cartoon alien with a green face and large eyes. To its right, the text 'Understanding DYSLEXIA' is written in a playful font, with 'DYSLEXIA' in larger, bold blue letters. Below this is a green banner that reads 'Free for Dyslexia Awareness Month'. In the center is a cartoon girl with brown curly hair and a pink brain, pointing upwards. To her right are several letters: 'ay', 'u', 'k', 'ow', and 'igh'. At the bottom right is a blue circle with the text 'for home parents' in white.