

Dyslexia: What you're seeing in Your Grade-Schooler

Reading and writing become more important in grade school. This can make dyslexia more noticeable. Here are some common signs.

Has Trouble Sounding Out New Words

At home: Your child still isn't sure which letters of the alphabet make which sounds.

At school: Your child struggles to sound out unfamiliar words, She avoids reading out loud because she doesn't want to be embarrassed.

The issue: Reading involves breaking down or "decoding" words into different sound units called "phonemes." Dyslexia makes it hard for kids to decode.

Seems Confused or Bored by Books

At home: Your child doesn't seem interested in books about her favorite characters or topics.

At school: Your child reads slowly and has difficulty understanding the materials.

The issue: Kids who struggle to sound out words can have trouble understanding the meaning of sentences and longer passages.

Can't Seem to Remember Details She Reads

At home: Your child has difficulty remembering what happens in a story from one day to the next.

At school: Your child struggles to connect what she reads to information she already knows.

The issue: Kids with dyslexia have to concentrate hard on reading. Because this can be exhausting, they often focus on "getting it done" rather than truly learning from a book.

Mixes Up the Order of Letters

At home: Your child frequently mispronounces words (such as "mazagine" instead of "magazine").

At school: Your child often misspells even simple words (such as writing "wuz" instead of "was").

The issue: Dyslexia does not just affect reading skills. It can cause problems with writing and speaking, too.