



## What is Read On?

Read On is a group of concerned parents and educators whose mission is to raise awareness about dyslexia so that parents and educators can identify at-risk students at an early age and implement research-based learning strategies to enable students to reach their full academic potential.

## Definition of Dyslexia

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 the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. (International Dyslexia Association, 2002)

*15 – 20 % of the population as a whole has some of the symptoms of dyslexia, including slow or inaccurate reading, poor spelling, poor writing, or mixing up similar words.*

- International Dyslexia Association (IDA)

*Dyslexic children do not naturally grow out of reading difficulties.*

-Tom Viall, executive director of IDA

*90% percent of children with reading difficulties will achieve grade level reading if they receive help by the first grade.*

-Susan Hall, Ed.D

**SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA** (individuals with dyslexia usually have *some* of the following characteristics):

### **Difficulty with oral language**

- Late in learning to talk; difficulty pronouncing words and acquiring vocabulary or using age appropriate grammar
- Difficulty following directions; confusion with before/after, right/left, and so on
- Difficulty learning the alphabet, nursery rhymes, or songs
- Difficulty understanding concepts and relationships; difficulty with word retrieval or naming problems

### **Difficulty with written language**

- difficulty putting ideas on paper
- many spelling mistakes
- may do well on weekly spelling tests, but there are many spelling mistakes in daily work; difficulty in proofreading

### **Difficulty with reading**

- Difficulty learning to read
- Difficulty identifying or generating rhyming word, or counting syllables in words (phonological awareness)
- Difficulty with hearing and manipulating sounds in words (Phonemic Awareness)
- Difficulty distinguishing different sounds in words (Auditory Discrimination)
- Difficulty in learning the sounds of letters
- Difficulty remembering the names and/or shapes of letters; reverses letters or the order of letters when reading
- Misreads or omits common small words; “stumbles” through longer words
- Poor reading comprehension during oral or silent reading; slow, laborious oral reading (adapted from International Dyslexia Assoc., 2003)



## Resource Information:

### • Websites

- International Dyslexia Association: [interdys.org](http://interdys.org)
- Washington State Branch of International Dyslexia Association: [wabida.org](http://wabida.org)
- Florida Center for Reading Research: [fcr.org](http://fcr.org)
- [dyslexia-parent.com](http://dyslexia-parent.com)
- National Institute for Literacy: [nifl.gov](http://nifl.gov)
- Children of the Code: [childrenofthecode.org](http://childrenofthecode.org)

### • Recommended Books

- For parents/teachers:
  - *Overcoming Dyslexia*, by Sally Shaywitz (2003)
  - *Straight Talk About Reading*, by S. Hall & L. Moats (1999)
  - *Basic Facts About Dyslexia and Other Reading Problems*, by L. Moats & K. Dakin (2008)
  - *Unlocking Literacy: Effective Decoding and Spelling Instruction*, by Marcia K. Henry (2003)
  - *The Human Side of Dyslexia*, by Shirley Kurnoff
  - *From ABC to ADHD: What Every Parent Should Know*
  - *About Dyslexia*, edited by Eric Q. Tridas
  - *The Writing Road To Reading*, by Romalda Bishop Spalding
- For students:
  - *Thank You Mr. Falker*, by Patricia Palacco
  - *Hank Zipzer (series of books)*, by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver
  - *Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)* by Rick Riordan

### • Referrals for Screening and Tutors

- Referrals for local dyslexia screening and tutors are available on the International Dyslexia Association website: [interdys.org](http://interdys.org)

## Want to get involved?

Visit the Read On Website, [www.readonforkids.org](http://www.readonforkids.org), and/or contact Read On at [info@readonforkids.org](mailto:info@readonforkids.org)