

Understanding Dyslexia

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Welcome Back!

I'm so excited to be starting off a new school year with you all as the district Dyslexia Specialist. I am glad to have this opportunity to share information and resources with you all! My goal is to help bridge the gap between the classroom and home. I hope this newsletter will be a resource for you to help you gain a better understanding of dyslexia and help you build a "toolbox" of information to help students in the classroom and at home.



Resource Corner

This section is where I will share websites, tips, and other tidbits that may be helpful to parents and teachers.

[The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity](https://dyslexia.yale.edu)
(dyslexia.yale.edu)

Today's resource is the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity. You can click the link above or copy and paste the web address in to your browser. This center was created by Drs. Sally and Bennett Shaywitz. Sally Shaywitz is the author of the book [Overcoming Dyslexia](#) which has become one of the most referenced book on understanding dyslexia.

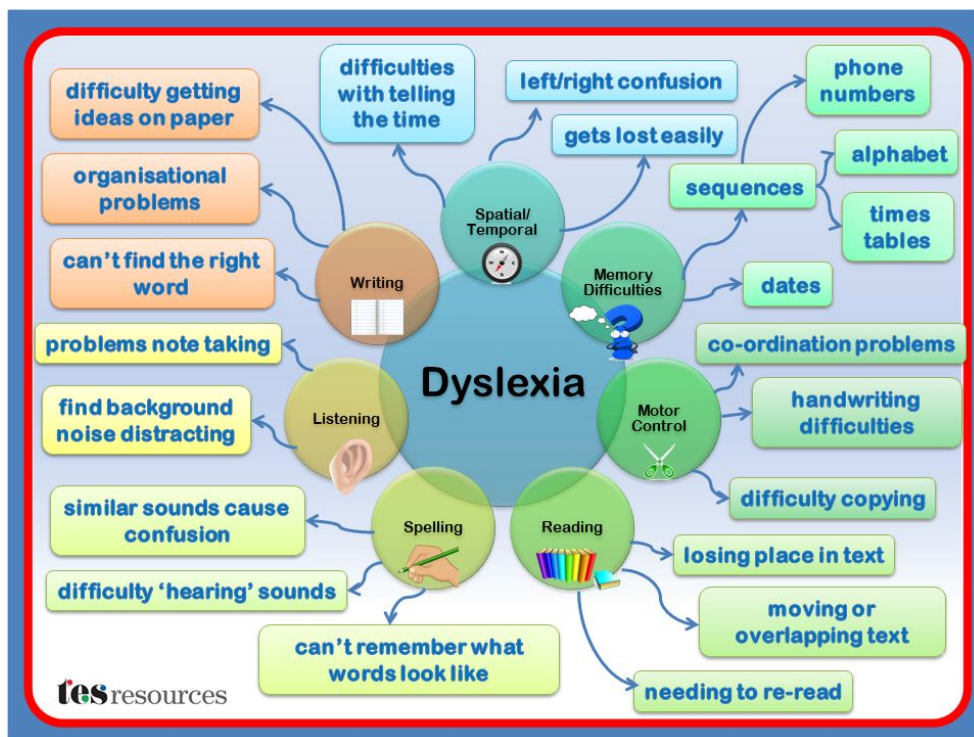
The site is a great place to get information, resources, and research.

What IS dyslexia?

"Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological 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 of vocabulary and background knowledge." ~ **International Dyslexia Association**

What this means is that dyslexia is a difference in the way the brain processes, stores, and accesses information regarding written language. It's usually due to deficits in phonological processing (how we use the sounds of language for reading and writing). The definition above mentions that it is unexpected, which means that in comparison to the person's other cognitive abilities we wouldn't expect that reading would be a difficulty for them. These difficulties can and often do impact other areas such as reading comprehension. People with dyslexia often appear to have no great difficulty when reading and writing are not involved, but things quickly fall apart for them when they have to get information on or off the page.

Dyslexia Characteristics



Texas Dyslexia Handbook - English

Click above to access a PDF copy of the Texas Education Agency's Dyslexia Handbook, or copy and paste the address below in your web browser.

https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2018-Dyslexia-Handbook_Aproved_Accomoded_12_11_2018.pdf

TIPS FOR LEARNING AT HOME

Let's face it, distance learning and even homework can be very taxing on the parent and the child. Here are some things that could help:

Break work into smaller, more manageable pieces. Let them take a break between sections or switch to a different activity. This can help with fatigue and attention.

Utilize online tools like chrome extensions for text-to-speech. Immersive Reader and Natural Reader are two good extensions that will read the page or selected text aloud to the student. You can get Immersive Reader at bit.ly/irextension and Natural Reader at <https://bit.ly/31X2y9s>. These are both free extensions. Immersive reader will also allow you to translate the text, change the background color of the page, and utilize a picture dictionary for selected words.



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