

DYSLEXIA (SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDER) CHECKLIST

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Name of child or adolescent

Age

Each item should be checked off using the following rating scale

- 0 Not at all, never occurs, does not apply
- 1 Mild, sometimes observed, applies to some extent
- 2 Moderate, often observed, certainly applies
- 3 Severe, frequently observed, strongly applies

Memory difficulties

Difficulties remembering instructions	0	1	2	3
Problems learning sequences such as multiplication tables	0	1	2	3
Confuses sequences (days of the week, alphabet, numbers)	0	1	2	3
Often makes mistakes when copying words or numbers	0	1	2	3

Speech, phonological and language difficulties

Poor at recognizing individual sounds within a word	0	1	2	3
Poor at recognizing or producing rhymes	0	1	2	3
Poor at recognizing or producing alliteration	0	1	2	3
Difficulties with 'word finding' when speaking	0	1	2	3
Mispronounces words, for example 'hostipal'	0	1	2	3
Later than average in learning to talk	0	1	2	3

Reading difficulties

Difficulties in using phonics to read words	0	1	2	3
Difficulties in learning basic sight words	0	1	2	3
Problems remembering words from one page to the next	0	1	2	3
Slow and hesitant reading despite plenty of practice	0	1	2	3
Loses place when reading; uses finger to keep track	0	1	2	3
Reads words that are not there	0	1	2	3
Poor reading comprehension even when reading fluently	0	1	2	3

Spelling difficulties

Repeats same spelling mistakes over and over again	0	1	2	3
Learns spelling for a test but forgets the words very rapidly	0	1	2	3
Incorrect sounds in spelling, for example 'spun' for 'spoon'	0	1	2	3
Spells the same word several different ways	0	1	2	3
Does not recognize spelling that 'looks wrong'	0	1	2	3



Difficulties combining spoken and written language

Difficulties in learning the link between sounds and written letters	0	1	2	3
Can spell a word verbally but cannot write it down.....	0	1	2	3
Difficulties in getting thoughts on paper.....	0	1	2	3
Written language is poorly structured.....	0	1	2	3

Difficulties with handwriting and bookwork

Difficulties with handwriting	0	1	2	3
Bookwork is untidy.....	0	1	2	3
Mixes upper and lowercase letters	0	1	2	3
Works more slowly than others of the same age	0	1	2	3
Reverses letters and numbers after the age of 7.....	0	1	2	3
Difficulties with sustained writing; hand gets tired very quickly	0	1	2	3

Underachievement

Literacy skills poor given their age and ability.....	0	1	2	3
Slow progress in literacy despite appropriate teaching.....	0	1	2	3
Achievements and progress do not reflect the effort put in.....	0	1	2	3

Difficulties with motivation and confidence

Low confidence in literacy.....	0	1	2	3
Avoids learning tasks	0	1	2	3
Low motivation in literacy activities	0	1	2	3
Gets frustrated and upset with literacy activities	0	1	2	3

Positive characteristics and strengths (describe at least 3)

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Important notes

This checklist can be used to help diagnose and assess Dyslexia. However, several conditions have similar characteristics and there may a range of explanations for the observations made. Specialist assessment is necessary for a formal diagnosis.

- Supporting notes on Dyslexia (pages 36–41)
- Guides for discussions with colleagues, parents and students (pages 184–8)

