

The path to reading success

Worry is not a plan. These four steps are, and every one of them can start this month.

Roughly 1 in 5 children shows signs of a reading difficulty like dyslexia, and "wait and see" is the costliest advice in education. Here's the route around it.

1

Screen

Know the warning signs for your child's age, and ask what screener the school uses and when. Screening sorts children into risk levels so schools can respond early; risk can be flagged as early as kindergarten.

DO NOW → check the signs-by-age checklist; ask the school one question in writing

2

Evaluate

If signs cluster and persist, request a comprehensive evaluation in writing, dated. The letter starts a legal clock (federal law: 60 days from your consent), and "response to intervention" cannot be used to delay it.

DO NOW → send the evaluation request letter; keep the timestamp

3

Intervene

Effective help is structured literacy: explicit, systematic, cumulative teaching of the code, delivered with real intensity by someone trained to deliver it. Ask any provider the eight questions before you commit.

DO NOW → bring the provider-questions guide to every consultation

4

Accommodate & monitor

Keep grade-level learning flowing while skills are rebuilt (audiobooks, text-to-speech, speech-to-text, extended time) and track progress data until goals are met. Access is not cheating, and paper trails are advocacy.

DO NOW → write named accommodations into the IEP/504; review data every 10–12 weeks