

Signs of dyslexia by age

No single sign means dyslexia. Look for clusters that persist. A family history of reading difficulty raises the likelihood significantly.

Preschool · ages 3–5

- ☐ Trouble learning nursery rhymes or recognizing rhyming words
- ☐ Difficulty learning (and remembering) letter names
- ☐ Mispronouncing familiar words; "baby talk" that lingers
- ☐ Trouble recognizing the letters of their own name
- ☐ Family history of reading or spelling difficulty

Kindergarten – Grade 2

- ☐ Difficulty connecting letters to their sounds
- ☐ Laborious sounding-out; guessing words from the first letter or pictures
- ☐ Spelling that doesn't match sounds (beyond typical errors)
- ☐ Trouble remembering common sight words even after practice
- ☐ Avoiding reading aloud; frustration or tears at homework time

Grades 3–8

- ☐ Slow, effortful reading that drains energy and time
- ☐ Poor spelling despite studying; the same word spelled differently on one page
- ☐ Strong ideas out loud, but great difficulty getting them on paper
- ☐ Trouble finishing tests and assignments on time
- ☐ Avoiding reading for pleasure; "I hate reading"

Teens & adults

- ☐ Reading remains slow; re-reading needed for comprehension
- ☐ Weak spelling; heavy reliance on autocorrect and spell-check
- ☐ Difficulty learning foreign languages
- ☐ Preferring podcasts and audio; avoiding reading-heavy tasks at work
- ☐ A childhood story of struggle that was never explained

If several signs fit, don't wait: screen

Reading risk can be identified as early as kindergarten, and early intervention is dramatically more effective than later remediation. Request a screening or evaluation now, in writing. Our free evaluation request letter and advocacy toolkit walk you through every step: dyslexia-institute.com/advocacy.html