

Common characteristics of dyslexia in students

Children will generally begin to show signs of dyslexia around the time of starting school when the focus turns towards developing reading and writing skills.

Common characteristics of dyslexia in students can vary slightly at different ages. Let's take a closer look! Remember, this list is not exhaustive and the signs and symptoms of dyslexia will vary from child to child.

Signs of dyslexia in pre-school children:

- Delayed speech development compared with other children of the same age.
- A range of speech problems e.g. difficulty pronouncing long words, or getting words mixed up when speaking.
- Issues with written expressions, e.g. difficulty with sentences and word choice.
- A limited understanding of rhyme.
- Difficulty with or disinterest in letters of the alphabet.

Signs of dyslexia in children at school (aged 5-12):

- Difficulties learning the names and sounds of letters.
- Inconsistent spelling.
- Putting letters and figures the wrong way round (e.g. writing "6" instead of "9", or "b" instead of "d")
- Reading slowly or making errors when reading aloud.
- Visual disturbances when reading e.g. a child may describe letters and words as appearing blurred.
- Confidence when answering questions verbally, but having difficulty writing the same answer down.
- Struggling to learn sequences, such as days of the week.
- Slow writing speed or poor handwriting.
- Issues copying written words.
- Taking longer than normal to complete written work.
- Forgetting the names of familiar people or objects.
- Forgetting instructions.
- Poor ability to recall items on a list.
- Difficulty learning months of the year and times tables.
- Losing their train of thought

Being able to spot these common characteristics of dyslexia in students will help teachers, parents and carers to get these students a diagnosis as quickly as possible.