

Dyslexia myths

Dyslexia is seeing backwards

That's impossible! Dyslexia is difficulty with the sounds & 2D symbols of language. Reversals are an artifact of the struggle with sounds & symbols. At its most basic, dyslexia is often a smart child who doesn't like to read.

A child will grow out of dyslexia

No! Dyslexia is a life long pattern of strengths & weaknesses. Reading, writing & the rules of language can be wired in & pulled up through good instruction.

Wait to test till 4th grade?

No, dyslexia can be identified early. The most important thing is to get good help going early. Good help pulls up phonological skills first, then main phonics rules (as measured through nonsense word reading), then overall phonics (as measured through real words – which don't all follow main rules), then timed reading tends to come up more slowly, because timed reading measures processing speed/retrieval speed. A child with dyslexia will wire in the rules of reading & language, but those rules can take him longer to retrieve.

Dyslexia is always visual & is due to the eyes not focusing together

No, dyslexia is difficulty with the sounds & symbols of language. You can read with one eye!

Dyslexia is because the 2 sides of the brain don't work together.

No, everyone's whole brain is at work every minute of every day. Blood goes to both sides of our brain!

Dyslexia is only in English speaking countries.

No, dyslexia is in all countries, BUT it gets in the way far less in main-rules-only countries (where language is transparent – one rule for each sound & one rule only, such as Italian, Finnish, Turkish)