

## Signs of Dyslexia

### **DYSLEXIA: A WEAKNESS IN A SEA OF STRENGTHS**

Dyslexia is NOT seeing things backward! Dyslexia is difficulty processing the sounds & symbols of language. Dyslexia is an inherited pattern of **strengths** in high-level thinking, & **weaknesses** in sound-language processing: taking in, storing, & retrieving sound-text info. The processing weaknesses interfere with reading & writing, but give strengths in high-level thinking – the student can think in ways others cannot, at the expense of difficulty automatically processing text. Appropriate instruction builds & reinforces brain connections for reading.

### **DYSLEXIA SIGNS**

**Preschool** difficulty rhyming, pronouncing words, learning & remembering letters, doesn't know letters in own name

**Strengths:** Very bright, active hands-on learner in other areas, loves building, playing spatial videogames (like Minecraft)

**KG - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade** Difficulty rhyming, remembering phone #, address, names, may get it one day, forget the next, mixes up order of sounds or letters in words, reads big as dig, *doesn't like reading*, prefers to listen

**High-level thinking strengths:** figures things out hands-on, solves puzzles, likes legos, good comprehension when stories read aloud

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** leaves out parts of words or confuses sound order; takes a long time, gets long words right but short words wrong, omits or inserts short words, forgets skills just learned - seems like a brand new word, omits or adds sounds, suffixes, plurals, reading choppy, lacks expression, takes longer on tests & homework, difficult learning foreign language, *doesn't like reading*

**Strengths:** understands big picture concepts, generates ideas, curious, understands what's read aloud, hands-on, thinks creatively, does better when more time on tests

**Adolescents/Adults:** reading is slow & laborious, doesn't read for pleasure, reads okay in area of expertise but doesn't like to read outside their area, avoids oral reading & avoids writing more than necessary, poor spelling, uses shorter words when writing.

**Strengths:** Excels at visual-spatial/hands-on thinking & problem solving!