# Understanding

- □ Dyslexia
- Dysgraphia
- DevelopmentalLanguage Disorder



From

Rooted in Language

### **Dyslexia**

Dyslexia is typically identified by a cluster of these common indicators:

- $\hfill \square$  Difficulty in learning letter names and reciting the alphabet
- □ Difficulty in learning letter sounds
- □ Problems reading words
  - □ Slow decoding skills
  - Weak sound blending skills
  - □ Weak sight word development
- □ Poor reading fluency
  - □ Slow reading rate
  - ☐ Difficulty with appropriate pausing and natural phrasing
- □ Problems with reading accuracy, resulting in many reading errors
  - □ Guessing at words
  - ☐ Skipping words
  - Adding words
  - □ Changing or omitting suffixes
- □ Weak reading comprehension
  - ☐ May need to re-read text multiple times
- □ Poor Reading persistence
  - ☐ Gives up or tires easily
  - Avoids reading

Dyslexia is primarily a difficulty in developing fast and fluent automatic sound-to-letter connections for sight word development, fluent reading, and accurate spelling.

## Dyslexia\_

Poor spelling
☐ Poor recall of simple, high frequency words
☐ Difficulty spelling multisyllable words
Weak writing skills
□ Letter reversals and inconsistent capitalizations
□ Poor organization
□ Poor self-monitoring and editing
☐ Weak attention to details
Possible difficulty pronouncing multisyllable words
Possible difficulties with numbers
☐ Learning and writing numbers
☐ Naming numbers quickly, especially with variable place values
□ Memorizing number facts and operations
Delay in speech & language development
Family history of reading and/or writing difficulties

### Dysgraphia.

Dysgraphia is typically identified by a cluster of these common indicators:

Difficulty forming letters	
□ Persistent letter reversals	
<ul><li>Poor control of letter spacing</li></ul>	
☐ Idiosyncratic mix of capital and lowercase lette	ers

Dysgraphia is primarily a difficulty in developing fast and fluent automatic sound-to-letter connections for fluent writing and accurate spelling.

- Variable letter slant & alignmentDifficulty managing letter height
- ☐ Difficulty in making directional and sequential changes (called reciprocity)
  - ☐ Letters have sharp angles rather than smooth curves
  - □ Poor closure of connection points (Ex: letter o looks like letter u)
- ☐ Difficulty managing the margins of the paper
- □ Poor writing legibility
  - ☐ Many stops, restarts, and crossing out of errors
- ☐ Tight or awkward pencil grip
  - ☐ Complains of discomfort or pain
- Awkward approach to writing
  - □ Doesn't stabilize the paper
- □ Little writing output
  - ☐ Difficulty getting thoughts on paper
  - ☐ Tires easily while writing
  - Avoids writing

## Dysgraphia\_

Slow writing speed
Poor spelling
□ Poor recall of simple, high frequency words
□ Difficulty spelling multisyllable words
Weak written expression
□ Inattentiveness for details when writing
□ Poor quality as compared to oral expression
□ Weak writing mechanics
□ Poor self editing
Possible struggle in other fine motor skills
Possible difficulty following verbal directions involving sequencing and/or directional movement

#### Developmental Language Disorder\_

Developmental Language Disorder is typically identified by a cluster of these common indicators:

Developmental Language Disorder is difficulty with verbal expression and listening comprehension.

Delayed talking
<ul> <li>Vocalizes less as a baby and toddler</li> </ul>

- $\square$  Late in developing first words
- □ Late in putting words together in simple sentences
- □ Weak vocabulary development
  - □ Difficulty learning new words
  - ☐ Confuses similar sounding words (Ex: Pacific and specific)
  - ☐ Difficulty recalling words in conversation (may insert "**um**" while thinking)
  - □ Overuse of indefinite pronouns and referents (Ex: thing, stuff, this/that)
- □ Weak oral expression
  - ☐ Difficulty telling personal experiences
  - □ Difficulty expressing ideas and feelings
  - □ Reduced turn-taking in conversations
  - ☐ Difficulty asking questions or requesting clarification
- □ Weak grammar skills
  - ☐ Frequent grammatical errors while speaking
  - ☐ Errors of verbs and pronoun usage, especially when young
  - ☐ Only uses simple sentences

### Developmental Language Disorder\_

Poor listening comprehension
☐ Unable to summarize or narrate what was heard
□ Difficulty identifying main ideas
□ Difficulty understanding complex vocabulary
□ Difficulty understanding questions
□ Difficulty following directions
Weak written expression matches weak oral expression
☐ Uses simple sentences
□ Poor narration and summarization
□ Weak vocabulary and grammar usage
Poor abstract thinking and figurative language skills
Possible spelling weakness
<ul> <li>Poor distinction between similar sounding words and phrases (Ex: then vs. than; have to vs. half to)</li> </ul>
Possible delayed speech sound development
□ Difficult to understand when young
Possible weak phonological awareness skills

#### **Citations**

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