

Key signs of Dyslexia

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Dyslexia often runs in families so there are likely to be others who experience related difficulties, even if they had not had a formal assessment. From an early age, there may be difficulty with learning to talk so that the child begins to speak later, or has a notable difficulty with sounds in speech. They may have difficulty with rhyming words and nursery rhymes. These are early indicators which can translate into difficulty with sounds which can impact on reading and spelling skills development later on. This is known as phonological processing, and is a key indicator of Dyslexia.

You may also see difficulty with working memory and being able to hold information in memory. This can show itself with being a 'quick forgetter', so instructions in the classroom or at home are hard to retain, the content of what has been read is difficult to recall. You may have noticed your child sometimes needs longer to think things through and process information. Tasks may take longer than expected to complete. This is all completely normal for Dyslexia.

Children with Dyslexia will often not develop literacy at the same rate as their peers, and this can lead to a cycle of reluctance to read and write and can start to impact on areas such as self-esteem. Children will react in different ways when they realise they are 'different', and this can manifest in disengagement and subsequently being seen as having 'behavioural issues'.

Other children accept they are having some difficulties in some areas, but will also be able to appreciate their skills and talents in other areas. 'I am a horse rider who struggles a bit with reading'. This is a shift in mindset which can be key to maintaining a positive self-concept.

Because of all the extra effort that is needed to keep up, children with Dyslexia will often be very tired at the end of the school day. They can feel overloaded and exhausted and you may see this showing itself as negative behaviour at home. They need an outlet for their frustration.

About Witherslack Group

We are committed to sharing advice and support to parents, carers and professionals. Our webinars and online resources provide expert knowledge and practical support. If you would like to find out more information you can email webinars@witherslackgroup.co.uk or visit www.witherslackgroup.co.uk.



About Sally-Anne Morrison

Sally-Ann Morrison is an Independent Dyslexia Consultant with over 20 years' experience working in the field.