

Dyslexia: Fact & Fiction

1. Children with dyslexia reverse letters.

Some do and some do not. Letter reversal alone does not indicate dyslexia.

2. Dyslexia only affects boys.

Dyslexia occurs pretty evenly in both genders, however more boys are referred for help than girls.

3. People who are dyslexic are unable to read.

People with dyslexia can learn to read, but their brains must devote more energy to the skill than non-dyslexic readers. Will also utilize different areas of the brain than fluent, non-dyslexic readers.

4. Dyslexia only manifests in people who speak certain languages, e.g. English.

Dyslexia appears to occur in all languages.

5. There are no clues to dyslexia before a child enters school.

There are potential clues including speech delays, inability to recognize rhyming words, family history.

6. Dyslexia does not tend to run in families or have a genetic component.

Dyslexia does tend to run in families and there appears to be a genetic component.

7. Smart people can't be dyslexic. If you are smart, you can't have dyslexia.

Many gifted, intelligent, and successful individuals have dyslexia.

8. Around 85% of students with a Specific Learning Disability have a primary disability in reading and language processing.

Correct: Students struggling with reading make up a huge percentage of students in special education.

Reference: Adapted from the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity: <http://dyslexia.yale.edu/>