

ASSISTING STRUGGLING READERS

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Phonetic Reading Disabilities

Difficulty learning to read fluently and with accurate comprehension despite having average to above average intelligence. Studies reveal differences in the way the brain develops and functions.

Areas of difficulty:

Phonological Awareness,
Decoding, Processing Speed
Orthographic Coding,
Auditory Short Term Memory,
Language Skills, Rapid Naming



Dyslexia-

Areas of difficulty:

Phonological Awareness- an awareness of sounds and the sound structure of words

Decoding- the ability to break a word into its sound components in order to gain meaning

Processing Speed- how quickly and accurately a someone receives and understands information

Dyslexia-

Areas of difficulty:

Orthographic Coding- ability to use written language, follow spelling and punctuation rules

Auditory Short Term Memory- recalling information heard over a short period of time

Language Skills- being able to receive and express language in a clear, cohesive manner

Rapid Naming- the ability to name objects, pictures, symbols automatically

Types of Dyslexia-

(<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/different-types-of-dyslexia>)

Phonological- Students cannot break down individual sounds of language & match them to written symbols.

Surface- Students have difficulty remembering whole words by sight, especially words that do not follow rules of pronunciation.

Double Deficit- Students who have difficulty with phonics and with rapid naming of letters and numbers.

Dyslexia Symptoms by Age		
Under 5	5 to 13	13 and up
<p>Trouble recognizing the alphabet or alphabet sounds</p> <p>Mixing up letters when pronouncing word, i.e. saying <i>biving doard</i> instead of <i>diving board</i></p> <p>Problem with learning new vocabulary words</p> <p>Trouble learning familiar word sequences, i.e. the name of the months in a year or the days of the week</p>	<p>Struggling with math word problems</p> <p>Problems recalling simple facts and numbers</p> <p>Trouble with using writing tools, i.e. pens</p> <p>Trouble with understanding spelling rules, i.e. 'I' before 'E' except after 'C'</p> <p>Trouble following directions in order</p> <p>Trouble with understanding new knowledge</p>	<p>Trouble with time management</p> <p>Trouble understanding phrases, jokes, or idioms</p> <p>Problems reading aloud</p> <p>Reading below grade level, even with average intelligence</p> <p>Trouble learning a different language</p> <p>Problems with retelling the main points of a story</p>

How do schools address Dyslexia?

School Districts do not diagnose “dyslexia.” This is a diagnosis obtained by clinicians and experts in the field.

School Districts do target academic areas of strength and weakness in student’s reading abilities to address the needs of students. The CSE will acknowledge your child’s diagnosis of Dyslexia and create a plan to address those needs accordingly.

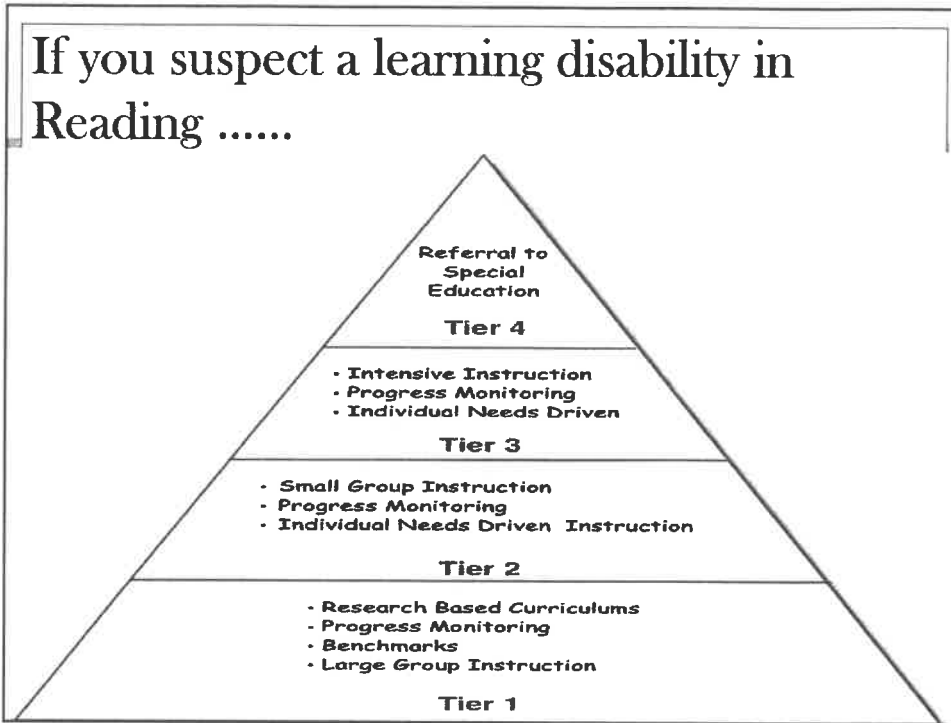
Students demonstrating difficulty in reading, decoding, spelling, writing and speech/language at an early age are identified by teachers as needing specific interventions.

How is it identified in schools?

These interventions are delivered by intervention specialists and therapists through the three tiers of Response to Intervention (RTI).

These interventions may include:

Phonemic Awareness Instruction,
Speech & Language Therapeutic Intervention, Systematic
Sequential Phonics/Spelling Instruction



What happens after intervention?

Students who are not successful with these multi-tiered interventions are referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

The CSE completes a thorough, multidisciplinary evaluation to determine whether or not the student has a Learning Disability in the area of reading.

The initial evaluation will determine-

There are thirteen areas of classification the CSE must consider based on the evaluations and committee discussion.

Dyslexia is not a specific area of classification. Students who have a diagnosis may fall under the classification of Learning Disability, depending on the severity of the condition.

How is it identified in schools?

To identify a Learning Disability in the area of reading there must be:
Significant academic impact as indicated in response to intervention, psychological evaluation and overall classroom performance.

Response to Intervention- After 6-8 weeks of interventions the child is still struggling and not making progress as indicated in pre/post test data.

Evaluation- A psychological evaluation reveals below average ability in reading on various standardized assessments.

Overall classroom performance: Despite having interventions and various levels of instructional differentiation and support, the child continues to struggle in the areas of reading, language and spelling.

What interventions does the student with a classification of Learning Disability receive?

If a student receives a classification as having a Learning Disability in the area of reading, he/she will receive an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The IEP includes specific goals in the area of reading decoding, spelling and written expression.

Each child is unique, and his/her needs depend on the manifestation of the disability.



What interventions does the student with a classification of Learning Disability receive?

Students may require:

An intensive, systematic sequential reading/spelling program that is highly multisensory.

Specific modifications and/or test accommodations such as tests read.

Assistive Technology such as voice activated speech- text software.

Comprehension instruction including visualization techniques.

Speech/Language Therapy that includes visual and oral motor techniques.

Will my child ever be “cured?”

People with Dyslexia are never really cured.

They learn strategies to overcome their disability and compensate for their weaknesses in reading.

Continuing in a systematic, sequential, highly multisensory reading program will provide beneficial results in the area of reading.



How can I assist my child at home?”

READ to your child.

Allow your child to listen to audio books.

Ask your child to name the beginning and ending sounds of objects around the room.

Use visuals.

Thank you for attending this forum.

"Being dyslexic, I had to train myself to focus my attention. I became very visual and learned how to create mental images in order to comprehend what I read." – Tom Cruise

<https://teachthought.com/literacy/50-popular-ipad-apps-for-struggling-readers-writers/>

Helpful Tools

These tools are useful for both educators and students with reading disabilities alike, aiding in everything from looking up a correct spelling to reading text out loud.

1. **Speak It!:** Speak It! is a great text-to-speech solution that can allow students with reading disabilities to get a little help with reading when they need it.
2. **Talk to Me:** Talk to Me is another text to speech application. It can be used to read words out loud as they are typed, which can help students to better correlate the letters and words with how they're pronounced.
3. **Dragon Dictation:** Dragon Dictation works in reverse of the two apps we just listed. Instead of reading text out loud, the application writes down spoken text. For students who struggle with writing, it can be a great way for them to jot down ideas or get help learning.
4. **Dyslexic Like Me:** Explaining dyslexia to a child can be hard, but this application can make it a little easier. It's an interactive children's book that helps students to understand dyslexia and become empowered to overcome their learning disability.
5. **Merriam-Webster Dictionary:** If spelling is a problem, it's always a good idea to have a really great dictionary on hand. This app from Merriam-Webster can provide that.
6. **Ditionary.com:** If Dictionary.com is your go-to place for definitions and spelling help, this app can be a great way to bring that functionality to your iPad or iPhone.
7. **Prizmo:** With Prizmo, users can scan in any kind of text document and have the program read it out loud, which can be a big help to those who struggle with reading.
8. **Flashcards for iPad:** This app makes it easy to study words, spelling, and other things that young and LD readers might need help with.
9. **Soundnote:** Using Soundnote, you can record drawings, notes, and audio all at once, balancing reading-based skills with those that are auditory and visual.

Fundamentals

These apps help teach the fundamentals of reading, writing, and spelling to any young learner, but can be especially helpful for those who are struggling.

10. **Alphabet Zoo:** Alphabet Zoo is a great tool for helping young readers to recognize letter sounds. Using text and pictures of animals, kids can build their reading skills while having fun.

11. **Find the Letters HD:** A favorite of special education teachers and psychologists, this app asks learners to find letters and numbers in a coloring grid. It helps build skills in spatial positioning, depth orientation, form discrimination, and concentration and attention.
12. **First Words Sampler:** Preschoolers with a reading disability can get a head start on improving their skills with this app that teaches them about letters and words using fun graphics and sounds.
13. **Montessori Crosswords:** Embrace the Montessori method by using this app to help youngsters improve their spelling and reading skills through engaging phonics-based exercises.
14. **Read & Write :**Students can practice reading and writing letters using this application. Users can trace letters, learn letter sounds, and get illustrations to go along with each part of the alphabet.
15. **Sound Literacy:** With a portion of the proceeds from this app going to the Dyslexia Association, there's no reason not to sign on. Even better, the app is incredibly useful, employing the Orton-Gillingham method to help students recognize the spellings of English phonemes.
16. **weesay ABC:** Using pictures, words, and sounds, this application makes it easy for young students to practice and learn their ABCs.
17. **abc PocketPhonics:** This app is a great tool for teaching reading disabled students the fundamentals of letter sounds and shapes.
18. **The Writing Machine:** By correlating pictures and words, reading text, sounding out letters, this tool helps students develop early literacy abilities with greater ease.
19. **WordSort:** One of the top educational apps out there, this game helps kids to learn how to identify parts of speech, like nouns, adverbs, and verbs, as well as emphasizing grammar skills.
20. **ABC Phonics Word Families:** Using analogy phonics (or word families) this application teaches young learners to see and hear the patterns of commonality in a set of words. With flashcards, spelling words, scrambled words, and games, this app is a must-have for helping students.

Reading

These excellent iPad apps can be a big help to reading disabled students who need a little extra support when trying to read.

21. **Blio:** Blio offers all the same features of any basic e-reader, and also a few things that make it unique. Through synchronized highlighting and a serial presentation view, the app helps those with reading disabilities make sense of the text, something many other similar apps don't offer.

22. **Read 2 Me:** For those who have difficulty reading, apps like Read 2 Me can be a godsend. The app comes complete with an entire library of texts, all of which can be read out loud.
23. **Read2Go:** If you use DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) books in your classroom, Read2Go is one of the best and most accessible ways to read those books on iOS.
24. **AppWriter:** Designed with reading and writing disabilities in mind, this text editor for iPad integrates numerous accessibility features into standard text editing functionality.
25. **Audiobooks:** Sometimes students with reading disabilities might just want a break from reading books the old fashioned way. That's why this amazing collection of free audiobooks can come in handy, offering access to classics like *Romeo and Juliet* and *Treasure Island*.
26. **Bob's Books:** Bob's Books uses phonics-based interactive games to help kids learn how to read. Activities will help young learners to sound out words, spell, and make connections between letters and sounds.
27. **iStoryTime:** There are numerous titles to choose from in the iStoryTime series, all of which allow kids to have the book read to them or to get help reading it themselves.
28. **MeeGenius! Kids' Books:** MeeGenius is another series that's perfect for practicing reading skills. Those with trouble reading can use illustrations and helpful word highlighting to get help, or just have the book read to them until they're confident enough to do it on their own.
29. **Reading Trainer:** While this app is designed to help average readers boost their reading speed and ability, it can be useful to those who struggle as well, as many of the skills taught can help just about anyone become a more confident reader.
30. **See Read Say:** This application will help to ensure that young learners are familiar with all of the Dolch sight words (the most common words), using games, activities, and tons of practice.
31. **Stories2Learn:** Why use existing stories to help troubled readers when you can build your own? This application lets you develop your own text and audio stories, including messages, topics, and other things that can help keep kids interested.
32. **eReading series:** The eReading series from Brain Integration LLC, helps young readers at all levels of proficiency learn about topics like Greek Mythology and *Gulliver's Travels*. Users can have the book read to them, or practice reading without the help, too.

Writing

For those with reading disabilities, sometimes writing can also be a trying task. Here are some apps that can help teach, assist, and make writing more fun.

33. **iWrite Words:** Named by *The Washington Post* as one of the best apps for special needs kids, this game-based program helps youngsters learn to write their letters through a fun and engaging setup that uses illustrations and animations to keep things interesting.
34. **AlphaWriter:** Using Montessori-based learning methods, this application helps kids to learn how to read, write, and spell phonetically. It also teaches lessons on consonants and vowels, letter sounds, writing stories, and much more.
35. **Sentence Builder:** Through this application, elementary school children will learn how to build grammatically correct sentences, with a special focus on using connector words.
36. **Story Builder:** After kids are done learning how to build sentences, they can move onto this app which combines those sentences into one coherent story, complete with illustrations.
37. **Writing Prompts:** Having trouble thinking of things for students to write about? This app removes that roadblock and offers up numerous ideas for short writing assignments.
38. **Idea Sketch:** This mind-mapping app can help learning disabled students make sense of their ideas and organize them in ways that they can easily translate into written work.
39. **Storyrobe:** Teachers and students can build and share their own unique stories through this application. Integration with YouTube and email makes it easy to share and revise, too.

Spelling

These applications can be excellent tools for improving spelling skills.

40. **American Wordspeller:** Looking up a word in a dictionary isn't that simple if you have no idea how to spell it. This app removes that problem and employs a method that lets you much more easily pinpoint how to spell just about any word.
41. **Word Magic:** Created by the parents of a five-year-old, this app for young learners help kids learn words and how to spell them correctly. It uses lots of positive reinforcement, rewards, and fun pictures to keep things interesting to learners.
42. **Typ-O:** Poor spellers can rejoice over this great application that help you spell words correctly in any typing-related program on your iPhone or iPad.
43. **A1 Spelling App:** This application is a great way to help poor spellers begin to learn the correct spelling of common words, increasing difficulty as kids master words.
44. **iSpell Word:** iSpell Word is designed to help kids learn the spellings of simple English words. It uses games to teach, with each level of the game employing more difficult words so kids are always challenged.

45. **Jumpline:** If you're looking to make reading, writing, and spelling into a game, this app can help. It's full of word games that ask players to use speed, smarts, pattern recognition, and spelling skills to win.
46. **Spelling Bee Challenge:** Kids can have fun taking part in a mock spelling bee using this application that boosts both spelling and vocab skills.
47. **Word Fall:** In this educational game, words fall from the sky and players must collect letters to form basic words.
48. **WordLadder:** This highly challenging word game will get older readers thinking about how words are spelled and how they can be connected and changed to form new words.
49. **ACT Spell:** Developed especially for learners with disabilities and special needs, this tool helps develop motor control, word recognition, spelling, and reading skills.
50. **Word Wizard:** Lauded by *The New York Times*, this word-focused app lets kids hear the sounds of letters and words through a movable alphabet while also engaging them in spelling practice and games.

This is a cross-post from content partners at onlinecollegecourses.com

Understood

Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness and Phonics: What You Need to Know

By Ginny Osewalt
At a Glance

- **Phonics, phonological awareness and phonemic awareness are related but not the same.**
- **Phonics instruction teaches the connection between word sounds and written letters.**
- **Phonological awareness is a broad term that includes phonemic awareness.**



Phonics, phonological awareness and phonemic awareness are all part of early reading. But people often confuse them. While these terms are related, they're not the same thing. Here's a closer look at what they are and how they work together to get kids ready to read.

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Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness covers many skills. (One of them is phonemic awareness.) It isn't based on written language—kids develop phonological awareness by listening. When kids have this set of skills, they're able to hear and "play" with the sounds of spoken language. It's the foundation for learning to read.

Early phonological awareness happens at the level of words and syllables. You know your child has it if she can clap out each word in a sentence or march to each syllable in her name (*E-li-za-beth*). She'll also be able to recognize and come up with words that rhyme or that have the same beginning sound.

You can sharpen your child's early skills by reading certain types of children's books to her. The books that help the most emphasize rhyme, alliteration (using similar consonants), repeated phrases and predictable patterns.

Once kids have a strong awareness of how spoken language works at the level of words and syllables, they can begin to focus on the smaller units of sound. That's known as *phonemic* awareness.

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is usually the last of the phonological awareness skills to develop. When kids have this skill, they can hear and "play" with the smallest units of sounds (phonemes) in words and syllables.

The two most important phonemic awareness skills are segmenting and blending. Segmenting is breaking a word apart into its individual sounds. Blending is saying a word after each of its sounds are heard.

If your child can segment, she is able to say *f-i-sh* after hearing the word *fish*. If she can blend, she's able to say the word *fish* after hearing the individual sounds *f-i-sh*.

Kids need those skills to learn the connection between word sounds and written letters or words. Many kids who are at risk for reading issues or who have a reading disability have poor phonemic awareness. A good phonics teaching program can help.

Phonics

Phonics instruction teaches kids to connect letters with sounds, break words into sounds, and blend sounds into words. Kids use this knowledge to become readers and writers. Schools typically teach these skills from kindergarten through second grade.

The most effective phonics programs are very structured. They follow a clear, step-by-step order of instruction. They also use multiple senses to help kids learn. For example, kids might use their fingers to write a letter in shaving cream while saying the sound associated with that letter. (This multisensory structured approach is used in programs based on Orton–Gillingham, considered the gold standard for helping kids with reading issues.)



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Good phonics lessons begin with a review of previously taught sounds. Then a new sound is introduced. Students are told, for example, that the letter *m* stands for the *m* sound as in *milk*.

Blending, sounding out and spelling activities using that new sound come next. Being able to decode text with previously learned sounds—plus the new sound—follow these activities.

Phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and phonics build on one another. There are ways you can help your young child develop these skills before she even gets to grade school.

If your grade school child has trouble with these early reading skills, you may want to consider having her evaluated. Understanding her issues with reading will allow you to get the best support possible.

Key Takeaways

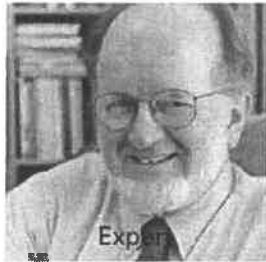
- **Phonological awareness includes larger units of sounds (words and syllables) and smaller units (phonemes).**
 - **Kids need phonemic awareness to have successful early reading experiences.**
 - **The best phonics programs are structured and use multiple senses to help kids learn to read.**
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About the Author



Ginny Osewalt is a dually certified elementary and special education teacher with more than 15 years of experience in general education, inclusion, resource room and self-contained settings.

Chat With an Expert



**Mon Oct 29 at
12:00pm ET**

ADHD and Emotions

Thomas E. Brown,
Ph.D.

RSVP

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