

### Some of the early signs that may indicate the presence of dyslexia\*

- Underdeveloped preference for left or right
- Confused sense of direction (up/down, North/South, left/right)
- Poor sense of time
- Inability to work sequentially
- Difficulty listening to and carrying out instructions
- Short attention span and constant fidgeting
- Apparent laziness and lack of interest
- Persistent jumbled talk
- Persistent lisp
- Difficulty remembering common sequences, days of the week, times tables, order of alphabet, etc.
- Slow to process the spoken word
- Persistent confusion of similar letter shapes 'u/n, i/j, f/t'
- Difficulty learning whole sight words, reversing whole words 'was/saw'
- Signs of stress
- Mislabelling colours
- Always touching things, trying to learn through their environment
- Persistent writing numbers and letters back to front
- Missing out lines or pages in books
- Seeming inability to write against the margin or to keep to the lines
- Good days and bad days for no apparent reason
- Clumsiness and spatial awareness problems
- Delayed language development, late to speak and immature grammar
- Good long-term memory, but unreliable short-term memory
- Frequent daydreaming
- Extreme signs of frustration; unexpected bad temper
- Disorganization with possessions
- Enigmatic behaviour, seems bright, but hard to teach and understand
- Difficulty getting dressed; buttons, zips, ties, laces, persistent problems with shoes on the wrong feet
- Word-finding difficulty
- Serious difficulty copying from the board, black or white
- Unable to write and spell despite good general knowledge and obvious ability.

### Talents and abilities that often accompany dyslexia may include\*:

- ✓ Lateral thinking
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Imaginative ways of solving problems
- ✓ Quick thinking
- ✓ Knowledge and skills that are not compartmentalised
- ✓ Being able to sustain many strands of thought simultaneously
- ✓ Keen sensory awareness sometimes
- ✓ Good spatial relationships
- ✓ Visualising skills
- ✓ Being able to use space, shape and patterning
- ✓ Mathematical speed and understanding
- ✓ Colour sensitivity
- ✓ Singing and music
- ✓ All form of artistic expression
- ✓ Facility of expressing feelings and emotions
- ✓ Abilities in constructional, mechanical and technical activities
- ✓ Logical thinking

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\* How to have a dyslexia friendly school (Elizabeth Henderson)