

# What is DYSLEXIA?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with reading and spelling, particularly in developing connections between letters and sounds, as a result of a weakness in distinguishing the sounds of language (phonological awareness). These difficulties may lead to problems with vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and written expression.

## How widespread is dyslexia?

**15-20 PERCENT** of the population

As many as **15-20%** of the population as a whole exhibit some of the symptoms of dyslexia. Dyslexia occurs in people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels and is often hereditary.

### Common Strengths:

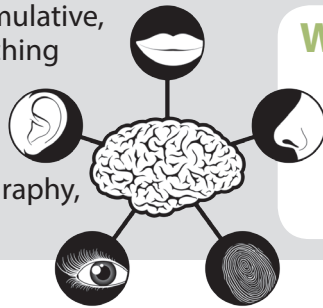
- Reasoning skills
- General knowledge
- Creativity
- Critical thinking skills
- Problem solving
- Strong oral skills

### Common Difficulties:

- Learning letters and their sounds
- Identifying syllables and sounds in words, especially vowels
- Organizing written and spoken language
- Reading quickly enough to comprehend
- Spelling
- Persisting with and comprehending longer reading assignments
- Learning a foreign language
- Memorizing number facts
- Correctly doing math operations
- Confidence in their competence as learners

## What is effective instruction for students with dyslexia?

Instruction should be explicit, systematic, cumulative, and multisensory. It should integrate the teaching of listening, speaking, reading, spelling, vocabulary, fluency, handwriting, and written expression. There should be an emphasis on the structure of language: phonology, orthography, morphology, syntax, and semantics.



### Why multisensory teaching?

Students who exercise multiple senses during the learning process are better able to recall learned material on a short and long-term basis.

## What are the rights of a person with dyslexia?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) define the rights of students with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities. These individuals are legally entitled to special services to help them overcome and accommodate their learning problems, including specialized teaching designed to meet their needs.

In Oregon, dyslexia is included in the definition of Specific Learning Disability in the Oregon Administrative Rules for Special Education (581-015-2000, 4.i).

International **DYSLEXIA** Association®  
Oregon

### Oregon Branch

PO Box 2609  
Portland, OR 97208-2609

503-228-4455 (voicemail)

info@orbida.org (general info)

**or.dyslexiaida.org**