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Dyslexia Fast Facts

Introduction

What is dyslexia?

A learning disability in reading. People with dyslexia have trouble reading fluently, typically at a slow pace with mistakes.

What are the signs?

A key sign of dyslexia is trouble decoding words. This is the ability to match letters to sounds.

When do symptoms present?

As early as preschool.

Why Dyslexia Therapy?

- To develop strong literacy skills, improve the child's self-confidence, and excel in various aspects of life.
- To integrate visual, auditory, and motor processing with an explicit understanding of the structure of the English language, which provides a solid foundation in written language skills.
- To provide diagnostic and prescriptive intervention to create a high level of accuracy, fluency, and understanding for independence in written language skills.
- A skilled therapist provides intervention, with high frequency over a sustained period of time, which links explicit understanding, repeated practice, and performance to develop accurate and fluent reading with comprehension.

Research Summary

- Dyslexia therapy's explicit or direct instruction is the most effective teaching approach for students with reading difficulties.
- Dyslexia therapy's use of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile pathways simultaneously enhances memory and learning of written language is what the International Dyslexia Association refers to as multi-sensory instruction.
- Dyslexia therapy instruction meets a student's needs. The instruction is based on careful and continuous assessment.
- Dyslexia therapy is an evidence-based reading instruction outlined by the International Dyslexia Association that must also include: phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension instruction.



Implications for Instruction

- Begin explicit instruction as early as preschool.
- Teach students to recognize and use the smallest sounds that make up words (phonemes).

- Teach students that letters and strings of letters represent these sounds and words (phonics).
- Teach students to understand what is read (comprehension).
- Teach students to build reading accuracy, speed, and expression (fluency).
- Teach students how to build a vocabulary of recognized and understood words.