

44 MYTHS ABOUT DYSLEXIA DEBUNKED

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It is important to be aware of some of the popular misconceptions and myths surrounding dyslexia and language-based learning disability. We have highlighted some of the more common myths and provided the alternative understanding.

9 Myth: There is no way to diagnose dyslexia.

Fact: Professionals such as speech-language pathologists who have in-depth training can accurately diagnose dyslexia as early as age 5.

10 Myth: Dyslexia cannot be diagnosed until the third grade of school.

Fact: Professionals with extensive training can accurately diagnose dyslexia as early as age 5. The sooner a diagnosis is made, the quicker your child can get help, and the more likely you are to prevent secondary blows to their self-esteem. Parents need to be aware of the warning signs of a risk for dyslexia before 3rd grade. It should be noted that the combination of a family history of dyslexia and symptoms of difficulties in spoken language can help identify a vulnerable child even before he/she begins formal schooling.



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11

Myth: Dyslexia can be accurately diagnosed by an educational psychologist or a 'specialist dyslexia teacher' by using special tests.

Fact: It is often difficult to get a diagnosis for dyslexia because it is almost impossible to scientifically differentiate it from other learning disabilities, although the warning signs of dyslexia should be monitored and recorded carefully. Often, these types of specialists will use phrases in a written report such as "child has a specific weakness in phonological development" instead of saying "child has dyslexia". Don't give up hope, though! Dyslexia can be recognized and early intervention can help minimize its negative effects.

12

Myth: Dyslexia is a medical diagnosis.

Fact: Dyslexia is not characterized as a medical problem and is not tested by doctors because they don't have training on reading, writing and spelling testing. There is no pill or medication that can heal dyslexia, and nothing to do with dyslexia is covered by medical insurance because it is not a medical problem.



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