

Is my child Dyslexic?

**By Melanie West
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As a parent, it can be overwhelming to discover that your child isn't thriving at school.

First comes a few bad test scores, an awkward glance from the teacher, your child starts complaining about "not feeling well", battles with homework begin, it starts to take forever to get out the door each school day. Forget about trying to get everything to school ...something is always forgotten!. Your instincts tell you something's wrong.

If you've ever wondered if your child "might" have Dyslexia, chances are you are seeing something the school system is overlooking. While researchers estimate that approximately 10 percent of all students have some form of Dyslexia, mild to moderate Dyslexia is one of the most overlooked reasons for school failure today.

Some characteristics of a child with mild Dyslexia, include:

Difficulties mastering the Sight Words.

Ability to read but frequently substitutes Sight Words while reading aloud.

Weak reading comprehension skills.

Difficulties following directions.

Difficulty mastering math facts

Difficulties with math word problems.

A child with Dyslexia may often be misunderstood because Dyslexia is difficult to test. Dyslexic tendencies "come and go" depending on the degree of stress a student is feeling and the overall general knowledge the student has about a particular topic. As a parent, you may be the best person to diagnose your child with Dyslexic tendencies because you see how your child's brain responds differently throughout a variety of tasks. Schools will often mis-characterize a Dyslexic child as being a poor test taker, slow learner, or as a student who frequently makes careless errors.

While Dyslexia can be very difficult to test. Dyslexic students often respond very well to educational therapies. Dyslexia tends to reside within one specific area of the brain. Educational therapies that activate alternative learning pathways can be very effective. Dyslexia can be treated. Your awareness and understanding of common Dyslexic tendencies is a powerful place to start.

About the Author

Melanie West is America's leading authority on “Right Brain Learning” and the founder of The Right Side of Learning program. As an Educational Psychologist and expert in her field of endeavor, Melanie is affectionately referred to as the “Child Whisperer” as she has helped thousands of children and families get back on the educational track. Her revolutionary approach uses a visual, kinesthetic, and auditory approach to mastering the art of learning. Melanie can be contacted through her website at www.therightsideoflearning.com, by e-mail at melanie.west@therightsideoflearning.com or by phone at 310.947.2662.