

## Common Indicators of Dyslexia Checklist

This checklist (adapted from BDA, 2025) lists common indicators of dyslexia. Teachers and parents can use this to identify specific difficulties experienced by a child. It is not a formal screening tool and therefore it should not be used to determine a diagnosis of dyslexia. If 'yes' is being answered in several sections, seek advice from a qualified dyslexia specialist.

	Yes	No	Don't know
<b>Processing speed:</b>			
Is speech and/or written work slower than expected?			
<b>Concentration:</b>			
Is speech and/or written work slower than expected?			
Do they seem 'dreamy' or appear not to listen?			
Are they easily distracted?			
Do they find it difficult to concentrate if there are distractions?			
<b>Memory:</b>			
Did/do they have difficulty learning nursery rhymes?			
Do they have difficulty reciting the alphabet			
Is there difficulty in remembering and following instructions?			
Is there difficulty in recalling a word they want to use?			
Is there difficulty in remembering which day of the week it is today, their birthday, months/seasons of the year?			
Is there difficulty in recalling daily routines?			
Is there difficulty in retaining information by rote?			
Do they forget peoples' names?			
<b>Organisation:</b>			
Is there difficulty with time keeping?			
Do they have poor time keeping?			
Do they have difficulty taking notes?			
Do they struggle to organise their homework?			
Do they find it difficult to complete work on time?			
Do they lose their belongings, or forget to go to appointments or complete homework?			
<b>Writing:</b>			
Is written work of a lower standard than spoken language? Or appear to know more than they can commit to paper?			
Is writing messy (e.g. crossings out, badly-formed letters, not set out well)?			
Is the pencil grip unusual or poor?			
Do they have poor motor skills, leading to weaknesses in speed, control and accuracy of the pencil?			
Are letters that look similar often confused or letter reversals made?			
Is the same word spelt different ways in the same piece of writing?			
Are words spelt with an unusual sequence of the letters?			

(Continued overleaf)

<b>Reading:</b>			
Is progress in reading slower than expected?			
Is it difficult to blend letters together?			
Is it difficult to identify syllables or hear the beginning/end of words?			
Are words pronounced in an unusual way?			
Are visually-similar words confused (e.g. cat and cot)?			
When reading aloud, is expression lacking?			
When reading aloud, is reading hesitant and laboured?			
Do they miss words out, or add extra words, when reading?			
Do they have to use their finger to keep track of their place?			
Do they fail to recognise familiar words?			
Is comprehension low? Do they have difficulty in identifying the main points of a text?			
Does text need to be reread, in order to understand it?			
<b>Maths:</b>			
Is there place value confusion?			
Is there symbol confusion (e.g. + and x)?			
Is there difficulty remembering sequences (e.g. tables, multiples, days of the week, the alphabet)			
Is there difficulty reading the time?			
Is there difficulty with the passing of time, such as yesterday, today, tomorrow?			
<b>Other:</b>			
Do they often confuse left and right?			
Do they misunderstand complicated questions?			
Do they struggle to learn a new foreign language?			
Are they often excessively tired (due to the amount of concentration and effort they have used)			
Do they sometimes confuse words, e.g. hopstipal?			
Is there a family history of dyslexia?			
Do they have obvious 'good' and 'bad' days for no apparent reason?			
Are certain tasks avoided?			
Do they have a low self-esteem?			

Adapted from:

BDA (2025) *Is my child dyslexic? Signs of dyslexia (early years)*. From <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/is-my-child-dyslexic/signs-of-dyslexia-early-years>

BDA (2025) *Is my child dyslexic? Signs of dyslexia (primary school age)*. From <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/is-my-child-dyslexic/signs-of-dyslexia-primary-age>

BDA (2025) *Is my child dyslexic? Signs of dyslexia (secondary school age)*. From <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/is-my-child-dyslexic/signs-of-dyslexia-secondary-school-age>

BDA (2025) *Am I dyslexic?* From <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/adults/am-i-dyslexic/signs-of-dyslexia>