

Informal Screening for Adults

Intake Questions for Dyslexia

If their primary language was English:

They attended school regularly (at least in Elementary School)

And they started having reading and spelling problems in Grades 1 through 4

They probably have dyslexia.

Instead of testing, ask these questions:

I'd like to know about your school-related background.

1. Was English your first language?
2. Did you attend nursery school or preschool, or did you start in kindergarten?
3. Starting with your very first school, tell me each school you attended and for which grades.
4. Were you ever left back a grade, or had to repeat a grade?
If yes, what grade(s)?
5. Did you ever miss a great deal of school?
In what grade?
Why?
6. What grade were you in when you left school?
If they do NOT have a high school diploma, ask: Why did you leave school?
7. What was your favorite subject in school? Your worst subject?
8. When do you think your reading/spelling difficulties began?
Think back to the first grade and let's review a year at a time?
9. Anyone else in your family have a difficult time reading or spelling?
10. Have you ever been tested or diagnosed with a learning disability?
11. Were you ever in Special Education classes?
12. Was your family aware of your reading/spelling problems?
What was their reaction? What did they do?
13. Did you ever receive extra help for reading or spelling?
14. Have you joined any other reading programs since you left school?
15. How good is your reading? Can you read:
Road signs?
Maps?
Newspaper headlines?

- TV Guide?
 - Menus?
 - Bedtime stories to your children?
16. Can you write:
 - Your address (with the street and city spelled correctly?)
 - Phone messages?
 - Letters, notes, and memos? Checks?
 - Fill out applications and forms?
 17. Would you say you're a slow reader?
 18. Do you read for pleasure? When was the last time you read a book for fun?
 19. How's your spelling?
 20. Do you ever confuse the letters B and D?
 21. Do you have difficulty with Left versus Right?
 - Do you have trouble finding places? Do you get lost a lot?
 22. When you read:
 - Do you ever get headaches?
 - Do your eyes get watery or itchy?
 - Does the print on the page start to blur after 10 or 15 minutes?
 - Does the print on the page seems to wiggle or move after 10 or 15 minutes?
 - Do florescent lights bother you?
 23. What do you think is the reason for your reading/spelling difficulty?

Optional: Ask an adult to do these tasks:

24. Write the alphabet.
25. Write their address.
26. Write a paragraph (3 or 4 sentences) about what they like to do for fun.
27. Give them a Phonemic Awareness test.
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 - or the CTOPP