

How do I know if my child may have characteristics of dyslexia?

The following are the reading/writing/spelling characteristics of dyslexia:

- difficulty reading single words in isolation;
- difficulty accurately decoding nonsense or unfamiliar words;
- slow, inaccurate, or labored oral reading (fluency), and/or
- difficulty learning to spell.

The reading/writing/spelling characteristics are the result of:

- difficulty with the development of phonological awareness, including segmenting, blending, and manipulating sounds in words;
- difficulty learning the names of letters and their associated sounds;
- difficulty with phonological memory (remembering information about sounds and words); and/or
- difficulty with rapid naming of familiar objects, colors, or letters of the alphabet.

What do I do if I think my child may have dyslexia?

You should meet with your child's teacher to discuss his/her reading progress and any questions or concerns you have regarding their reading.

What criteria is the dyslexia program required to meet?

The state requires that each campus have a program for students identified with characteristics of dyslexia and/or related disorders. That program must be:

- individualized to meet the student's needs,
- multisensory, using visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic methodologies;
- phonologically based;
- meaning based;
- systematic, sequential, and cumulative; and
- process oriented.

What can I do to help my child?

As a parent, you can help your child by

- understanding his/her dyslexia; reading books to learn more;
- praising your child's strengths and avoiding pressuring him/her in the area of reading/writing/spelling;
- establishing routines at home;
- making certain your child understands your directions; having him/her read them back to you;
- breaking large tasks into small ones, allowing your child to successfully complete each small task in order to successfully complete large ones;
- making certain there is a place for your child to do his/her homework;
- helping your child develop a plan for completing homework and other tasks;
- working closely with your child's teacher; and
- being patient with your child.

Whom do I contact if I have questions/concerns?

You should contact the Campus Dyslexia Coordinator at your child's school. This is usually the assistant principal or counselor. You can also contact the District Dyslexia Coordinator at (210)-554-2570