

Checklist of Early Warning Signs of Reading Difficulty and Dyslexia by Age

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AGE	LANGUAGE Does the student have difficulty:	READING Does the student have difficulty:	WRITING Does the student have difficulty:	EMOTIONAL Does the student have difficulty:
5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learning the alphabet ○ Rhyming words ○ Repeating what has been said ○ Staying focused ○ Learning to speak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naming letters ○ Matching letters to sounds ○ Learning to read at expected age ○ Remembering printed words ○ Remembering sight words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learning to write and copy at an age-appropriate level ○ Writing letters in correct order ○ Writing numbers in correct order ○ Spelling correctly and consistently ○ Writing neatly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Managing poor self-confidence ○ Managing low self-esteem ○ Managing social skills ○ Making and keeping friends ○ Becoming easily frustrated
9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rhyming words ○ Pronouncing words correctly ○ Speaking smoothly ○ Understanding directions ○ Understanding grammar/vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading at age-appropriate level ○ Remembering sight words ○ Learning and remembering new words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding spelling rules ○ Spelling words consistently correct ○ Writing letters and numbers in the correct order ○ Writing neatly ○ Listening and taking notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fitting in with peers confidently ○ Maintaining positive social status ○ Maintaining a positive attitude ○ Interpreting non-verbal actions of others ○ Maintaining an even temper

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14-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speaking fluently ○ Grasping a wide vocabulary ○ Using the correct grammar and vocabulary ○ Knowing the difference between words that look and sound familiar ○ Getting to a point quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading at expected grade level and accuracy ○ Reading aloud proficiently ○ Recognizing sight words ○ Reading confidently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consistently spelling words accurately ○ Fully developing ideas ○ Preparing accurate, comprehensive outlines ○ Editing written work ○ Being logical and organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying social strengths and weaknesses ○ Dealing with being teased ○ Making and keeping friends ○ Dealing with unexpected challenges ○ Identifying what others are feeling

Adapted from www.decodingdyslexia.net by the MSDE Office of English/Language Arts, Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement, and Professional Learning.