

'Red Flags' for Struggling Readers

Is this your Child*?

- Has a history of trouble learning to talk
- Has difficulty following multi-step directions
- Has trouble rhyming words and/or hearing sounds in words
- Has trouble quickly recalling rote information (letters, numbers)
- Has difficulty sounding out words and/or recognizing words by sight
- Has a close relative who had difficulty learning to read

(* or a child you know)

These symptoms are commonly observed in children who may struggle to learn to read, including: difficulty reading words quickly and accurately as well as difficulty comprehending written material.

Too many parents and professionals take a “wait and see” approach when a child has these symptoms. Precious time can be wasted, making it difficult for a child to become a competent reader.



The Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association



Promoting Literacy
through Research,
Education and Advocacy (™)

If you have questions, please
contact the **Massachusetts
Branch of the International
Dyslexia Association
(MABIDA)**

617-650-0011

www.dyslexia-ma.org

If your child--or a child you know--has any of these symptoms, here's what you need to know:

Reading is not hard-wired. Unlike learning to talk, children are not born with an innate ability to read.

For some children, the early warning signs of dyslexia and other reading disorders are often missed by teachers and doctors. We now know that 65% of young children designated at risk for reading problems in kindergarten will struggle throughout their academic career, if appropriate and immediate intervention is delayed.

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. It is a condition resulting in difficulties 'decoding' printed words. Children with dyslexia frequently struggle to learn letter sounds and to spell words. Others read words at a slower than average rate.

Are there other language-based reading disorders?

Yes, some children learn to read words easily, but later struggle with reading comprehension. Typically, these children may have delayed language development, trouble processing what others say, and/or difficulty expressing their ideas clearly.

Dyslexia and other types of reading disorders often run in families. A child with a parent or close relative who struggled to read is more likely to inherit similar difficulties. Through early identification and treatment, a child's ability to become a fluent reader is greatly enhanced.

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The Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (MABIDA) is here to help you.

We are a leading resource for families and those who serve them. We provide the following:

- *Referrals for evaluations, tutoring and school placement*
- *Presentations and professional development events for parents and educators*
- *Literature and current research information regarding dyslexia and related topics*

Steps you can take to help your child if you suspect a problem:

1) Talk to your child's teachers and pediatrician about your concerns.

2) Request an evaluation of your child's language and learning abilities through your local school district.

3) Learn more about early literacy development and seek out activities you can do at home. See our website for suggestions.