



CHILDREN'S HEALTH COUNCIL

The Early Signs of Dyslexia: Ages 3-5 Years.

When considering these characteristics, it is important to remain mindful of the following:

- No child will have all these characteristics.
- Some characteristics are more common than others.
- All children will have some of these characteristics to some degree.
- The number of symptoms seen in a particular child does not give an indication as to whether the dyslexia is mild or severe.

Speaking and Listening: delays, disorders, and deviations

- Is later than most children in learning to speak
- Has difficulty pronouncing some, especially multi-syllabic, words
- Has difficulty separating spoken words into sounds and blending spoken sounds to make words (i.e., has difficulty with phonological awareness)
- Experiences auditory discrimination problems (i.e. confuses some language sounds, e.g. /f/ and /v/, fan and van)
- Is prone to spoonerisms (e.g. chish and fips for fish and chips)
- Has difficulty with rhyming
- Is unable to recall the right word
- Is slow to add new vocabulary
- May have difficulty telling and/or retelling a story in the correct sequence
- Is developing fine motor skills more slowly than other children

Early Literacy: difficulties with the early skills of reading, writing and spelling

- Exhibits delays in acquiring emergent literacy skills (e.g., understanding that written language progresses from left to right, discriminating between letters, words and sentences)
- Experiences problems learning the alphabet
- Has trouble learning to write and spell his/her own name

Memory: difficulty in remembering information and instructions

- Has trouble learning numbers, days of the week, colours and shapes
- Is unable to follow multi-step directions or routines

Motor coordination: difficulty coordinating eye and hand

- Has difficulty maintaining rhythm
- Is developing fine motor skills more slowly than other children