

## Red Ladder Optimized Learning

**R**ed Ladder Optimized Learning is a private practice psychology service. Fees for our services are covered by most extended health plans. As well, psychological fees may be deductible as a medical expense with Revenue Canada.

We will be glad to discuss this with you.

For more information or to contact us, visit our website at [www.redladder.ca](http://www.redladder.ca), phone us at (204) 88-LEARN (885.3276) or fax us at (204) 489.1748.



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# DEVELOPMENTAL DYSLEXIA

One step at a time.



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# DEVELOPMENTAL DYSLEXIA

**D**yslexia is the most common learning disability and is believed to affect approximately one out of five children to some degree. It is a language based learning disorder, characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition, receptive and expressive oral language, and poor spelling and decoding skills, or any combination of these. People with dyslexia have problems with processing the smallest parts of language (phonemes) and appear to process information in a different area of the brain than non-dyslexics. They often have great difficulty decoding words while reading, may read slowly and have reduced understanding of what they read. They tend not to enjoy reading and may feel ashamed of their reading skills. Reduced reading experience can interfere with vocabulary growth and can slow the growth of a general base of knowledge.

## Who is affected by Dyslexia?

**D**yslexia is a neurologically based condition that tends to run in families. It affects males and females nearly equally, and people from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds can be affected. It is not the result of a lack of motivation, sensory impairment, poor schooling, lack of learning opportunities, or low intelligence. In fact, many people with dyslexia are of above average intelligence.

## When to seek evaluation

**E**arly signs of dyslexia include delays in speech development, difficulties with pronunciation, struggles in learning the alphabet and the sounds made by each letter, and difficulty identifying rhymes. Children with dyslexia may also struggle to find words to express themselves. They may be verbose, vague in their description substituting words like “stuff” and “things” for more specific vocabulary. If you or someone you know would like to be evaluated for dyslexia, contact a psychologist. Psychologists use standardized testing instruments designed to assess various aspects of the reading and writing processes, as well as other aspects of learning style. Typically evaluations for dyslexia break down the reading and writing processes into components, including sight word reading, phonetic decoding, reading comprehension, spelling and written expression. People in all stages of life

can be assessed for dyslexia, but early assessment and intervention have proven to be the most successful in overcoming dyslexia.

## Interventions for Dyslexia

**D**yslexia is not a disease and therefore cannot be “cured”. However, people with dyslexia often respond well to timely and skilled intervention. Early intervention is most effective, but people in all stages of life can benefit from phonics-based language instruction and developing coping strategies. Instruction should be given by teachers trained in structured, multi-sensory language programs.

## Want to know more?

If you would like to know more about developmental dyslexia, feel free to call Red Ladder Optimized Learning, or speak to your child’s resource teacher, guidance counsellor or with your doctor.

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