

## **NINDS Dyslexia Information Page**

### **What is Dyslexia?**

Dyslexia is a brain-based type of learning disability that specifically impairs a person's ability to read. These individuals typically read at levels significantly lower than expected despite having normal intelligence. Although the disorder varies from person to person, common characteristics among people with dyslexia are difficulties with phonological processing (the manipulation of sounds) and/or rapid visual-verbal responding.

### **Is there any treatment?**

The main focus of treatment should be on the specific learning problems of affected individuals. The usual course is to modify teaching methods and the educational environment to meet the specific needs of the individual with dyslexia.

### **What is the prognosis?**

For those with dyslexia, the prognosis is mixed. The disability affects such a wide range of people, producing different symptoms and varying degrees of severity, that predictions are hard to make. The prognosis is generally good, however, for individuals whose dyslexia is identified early, who have supportive family and friends and a strong self-image, and who are involved in a proper remediation program.

### **What research is being done?**

The NINDS and other institutes of the National Institutes of Health, including the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Mental Health, conduct research on dyslexia. Current research avenues focus on developing techniques to diagnose and treat dyslexia and other learning disabilities, increasing the understanding of the biological basis of learning disabilities, and exploring the relationship between neurophysiological processes and cognitive functions with regard to reading ability.

## **Organizations**

### **International Dyslexia Association**

8600 LaSalle Road  
Chester Building, Ste. 382  
Baltimore, MD 21286-2044  
[info@interdys.org](mailto:info@interdys.org)  
<http://www.interdys.org>

### **Learning Disabilities Association of America**

4156 Library Road  
Suite 1  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1349  
[info@ldaamerica.org](mailto:info@ldaamerica.org)

Tel: 410-296-0232 800-ABCD123  
Fax: 410-321-5069

<http://www.lidaamerica.org>  
Tel: 412-341-1515 412-341-8077  
Fax: 412-344-0224

**National Center for Learning  
Disabilities**

381 Park Avenue South  
Suite 1401

New York, NY 10016

<http://www.ld.org>

Tel: 212-545-7510 888-575-7373

Fax: 212-545-9665

**National Institute of Child Health and  
Human Development (NICHD)**

National Institutes of Health, DHHS

31 Center Drive, Rm. 2A32 MSC 2425

Bethesda, MD 20892-2425

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov>

Tel: 301-496-5133

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**National Institute of Mental Health  
(NIMH)**

National Institutes of Health, DHHS

6001 Executive Blvd. Rm. 8184,

MSC 9663

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