

What works for students with dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning disability that makes it harder to read words accurately and automatically.

Here are some effective ways to support children with dyslexia:



Structured literacy

Students with dyslexia can learn to read! Like all students, they benefit from structured literacy.

This is a way of teaching reading and writing that teaches language in an explicit and systematic way. This type of instruction includes teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding and spelling.

Students with dyslexia often need intensified structured literacy - additional time, instruction, and opportunities to practice.

Accommodations

While not a substitute for intervention, students with dyslexia may benefit from accommodations like scribing, audiobooks or assistive technology to help them access the curriculum.

Support self-esteem

Navigating dyslexia can be incredibly challenging. Consider highlighting a child's strengths and celebrating their progress and growth.

Learn more at dyslexiacanada.org

What doesn't work?



What doesn't work for students with dyslexia?

There are many myths and misconceptions about dyslexia.

These practices aren't effective, and they may delay a child's access to evidence-based supports!



Dyslexia fonts

Fonts for dyslexia are commonly used, but research shows they have no impact on students' reading. Dyslexia fonts perpetuate the misconception that dyslexia is a visual disorder.

Vision therapy

The Canadian Ophthalmological Society highlights that vision is not the cause of reading disabilities, and eye exercises aren't a research-supported way of improving reading skills.

Some interventions

If an intervention isn't structured literacy-based, it isn't likely to help a child with dyslexia. Many common interventions like Reading Recovery or Levelled Literacy Intervention shouldn't be used.

Coloured overlays

Tinted overlays or coloured backgrounds aren't effective. Since dyslexia isn't caused by vision, coloured fonts or backgrounds don't impact reading accuracy.

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What works?

