

### Ages and Stages of Dyslexia

**Any age**

- Family history of learning differences
- Dislike/avoidance of reading/writing
- Consistently inconsistent when it comes to applying taught skills (letter names, spelling rules, etc)
- Low self-esteem, negative self talk, anxiety about school/reading

**Preschool**

- Difficulty learning common nursery rhymes
- Recognizing and implementing simple rhyme patterns (hat, cat, mat) is challenging
- Unable to remember letter names
- Trouble recognizing letters in their first name
- Mispronouncing commonly used words, “baby talk”

**K-1st**

- Lacking understanding of connection between letters and letter-sounds
- Unable to connect letters to corresponding sounds
- Doesn't recognize that words can be broken down into smaller parts (letter sounds)
- Slow in acquiring literacy skills
- Dislikes and/or avoids reading

**2nd +**

- Doesn't use decoding strategies to read unfamiliar words
- Difficulty reading unfamiliar words and will instead guess at words, often based on the first letter
- Trouble remembering days of the week, months, names, etc.
- Often uses vague language (thing, place, stuff)
- Frequent pauses and/or use of “um” and “like” when speaking in an effort to gather thoughts and convey ideas
- Confuses similar sounding words, ie “lotion” in place of “ocean”
- Poor spelling, letter-reversals, and/or messy handwriting