



Dyslexia – Know the Facts!

MYTH: *People with dyslexia see things backwards.*

- **FACT:** People with dyslexia see things just like everyone else. They do not see ‘was’ as ‘saw’ for example. They do have trouble with directionality, and often have difficulty finding the right names for things. Although people with dyslexia may write letters and numbers backwards, not all do, and this is considered normal through the end of first grade. Dyslexics actually have trouble processing and manipulating the sounds of language.

MYTH: *Dyslexia is rare.*

- **FACT:** Dyslexia affects 1 in 5 people, according to 25+ years of research by the National Institutes of Health and studies at Yale University. The American Academy of Pediatrics states that dyslexia is the most common learning disability, accounting for 80% of all learning disabilities.

MYTH: *Kids with dyslexia will outgrow it.*

- **FACT:** Kids do not outgrow dyslexia. Dyslexia can be remediated by the right kind of instruction, but symptoms do not go away just because a child grows up. Kids with dyslexia grow up to be adults with dyslexia.

MYTH: *Dyslexia could be prevented if parents read to their kids more, or if teachers taught more phonics.*

- **FACT:** Dyslexia is caused by an inherited brain difference, not by something a parent or teacher fails to do. If a parent has dyslexia, there is a 40-50% chance their parent, sibling, or child also has it.

The dyslexic brain is very different from the non-dyslexic brain, and this has been documented by years of fMRI research. The dyslexic brain is organized differently. This is why reading, writing and spelling are so difficult for people with dyslexia. Dyslexia is considered a brain difference, not a defect.