Dyslexia comes from the words dys (meaning “poor” or “difficult”) and lexis (meaning “word”). Its translation means “difficult words”.

Dyslexia is a language-based disorder that can make learning difficult. However, these students can still learn to read with proper instruction.

According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, dyslexia is “a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities” (Flora, 4).

A child with dyslexia typically has average to above-average intelligence. This learning disability is “a language processing problem and is NOT connected to the ability to think” (Flora, 10).

“Dyslexia is the most common cause of reading, writing, and spelling difficulties.”
- Sherrill Flora
Reading Tips and Strategies:

- Have a set reading schedule with the student that includes one-on-one and/or small group instruction (ie: guided reading)
- Improve reading skills by having the student pre-read non-fiction texts beforehand
- Multi-sensory teaching methods are by far the most effective way to help students with dyslexia learn how to read.
- Incorporate visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities related to reading instruction
- Introduce new vocabulary words slowly. Have a word wall in the classroom to post these words on (visual aid) and read them each day.
- Develop reading guides for the student so that she/he can focus and stay on topic.
- Encourage the child to figure out the meaning of unknown words by using context clues and reading strategies.
- Give student books on his/her reading level to avoid frustration.

Writing Tips and Strategies:

- Use graphic organizers, charts, and webs to organize thoughts about writing.
- Provide the student with writing prompts to help get them started.
- Teach writing as a two-part process: (1) coming up with and getting the “writing ideas” down on paper and (2) editing what was written
- Encourage various forms of writing (ie: journals, life book, wordless books)
- Hold writing conferences with the student often
- Do not focus on spelling and punctuation errors

Did you know?

- Approximately 15% of the US population has a learning disability
- Approximately 4.5% of American students (or 2.5 million children) receive educational services for a reading disorder
- Anyone can have dyslexia!

Famous People with Dyslexia:
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Benjamin Franklin
- Tom Cruise
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Walt Disney
- Thomas Edison
- Albert Einstein
- Mark Twain