



## 10 Signs Your Child May Benefit from a Full Dyslexia Assessment

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Most state schools cannot deliver full diagnostic assessments — they don't have the time, resources or specialist training. A screening at school may flag concerns, but it cannot produce the detailed cognitive profile that teachers, schools and exam boards need to put genuinely individualised support in place.

If you recognise several of the following signs in your child, a full diagnostic assessment may be the next step. These signs aren't a diagnosis — only a qualified specialist assessor can confirm dyslexia — but they're common indicators that warrant further investigation.

### 01 **Slow or laboured reading aloud**

Reading aloud takes significantly more effort than reading silently. Your child may stumble over words they previously knew, lose their place on the page, or read in a flat, unsure tone.

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### 02 **Reading comprehension doesn't match their understanding when spoken to**

Your child clearly understands stories or information they hear, but struggles to extract the same meaning from a written text. The gap between verbal and reading comprehension is a classic dyslexia indicator.

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### 03 **Spelling errors that don't follow the rules**

Frequent misspellings of common words, spelling the same word differently in the same piece of writing, or making mistakes that don't reflect how the word sounds out (e.g. 'wos' for 'was').

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### 04 **Difficulty learning the alphabet, days of the week or times tables**

Struggling to memorise sequences — alphabet, days, months, multiplication tables — despite repeated practice. This often reflects difficulty with working memory and phonological processing.

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## 05 Avoidance of reading and writing tasks

Your child finds excuses to avoid reading or writing. They may complain of tiredness, headaches or stomach aches when these tasks come up at school, or hide books and homework.

## 06 Bright in conversation but underperforming on paper

Teachers describe your child as bright, capable and verbally articulate, but their written work doesn't reflect what they clearly know. Reports often use phrases like 'could try harder' or 'not reaching potential'.

## 07 Difficulty following multi-step instructions

Your child can follow one instruction at a time but loses track when given several at once. They may forget what they've been asked to do partway through, or do tasks out of order.

## 08 Confusion with similar-looking or sounding words

Mixing up words like 'was' and 'saw', 'left' and 'felt', or letters like 'b' and 'd' well beyond the age where this is typical. May also confuse left and right, or directions.

## 09 A family history of dyslexia or learning difficulties

Dyslexia is strongly hereditary. If a parent, sibling or close relative has dyslexia or had difficulties at school, the chances of your child being dyslexic increase significantly.

## 10 Low confidence or anxiety about school

Your child has started to describe themselves as 'stupid' or 'rubbish' at certain subjects. They may have become withdrawn, anxious about going to school, or show signs of avoidance around literacy.

If you've recognised several of these signs in your child, it's worth exploring further. A full diagnostic assessment provides clarity, unlocks targeted support at school, and gives your child the language to understand how their own brain works. Many children describe diagnosis as a relief — finally there's a reason for what they've been experiencing, and a name for it.

### Considering a formal assessment?

Get in touch for an informal, no-obligation chat. Assessments from £375, with reports delivered within 2–3 weeks.

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