**Specific Learning Disorder in Reading**

**What is a Specific Learning Disorder in Reading?**

A child may have a reading disorder if reading skills are below age expectations. Reading disorders are also called “Reading Disability” or “dyslexia.” Reading disorders can affect a range of skills involved in reading.

Skills involved in Reading

Phonological Awareness

Comprehension

Sight Word Reading

Decoding

Automaticity of letter identification

Word Retrieval

**Common Co-occurring Disorders**

* Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
* Specific Learning Disorders in Written Expression and Mathematics
* Language Disorder
* Speech Sound Disorder

**Diagnosis**

A specialist can diagnose a reading disorder after an evaluation. This evaluation will look at different aspects of the child’s reading abilities. A qualified psychologist can complete this evaluation.

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| --- | --- |
| A school-based evaluation: | An evaluation by a pediatric neuropsychologist may be needed if: |
| * The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires schools to provide an evaluation for children with suspected learning disorders. * For more information on the process and steps involved, visit <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/> | * The child has a complex medical history * The child struggles in multiple areas of learning, thinking or behavior * There is a concern for other causes such as a neurological event (e.g., stroke). * If English is not your child’s primary language or your child is raised in a bilingual/multicultural environment to identify challenges due to a language barrier. |

**Treatment**

Treatment for reading disorder should be “evidence-based”. Evidenced-based means there is research showing the treatment is effective. For dyslexia, a *Structured Literacy* approach is most effective. A structured literacy approach includes

* Phonological Awareness: Understanding words are made up of specific sounds
* Decoding: Converting letters to sounds
* Fluency: Ability to read smoothly with little effort
* Comprehension: Understanding what you have read
* Connecting the written units of sounds (graphemes) to their speech sound (phonemes)

There are many specific evidence-based programs. There are also a lot of tools to support reading development. Below are some examples of evidence-based treatments and treatments not supported by research.

**Effective Treatments**

Wilson Reading

Read Naturally

Orton Gillingham

**Ineffective**

**Treatments**

Vision Therapy/ Prism glasses

Fast ForWord

Earobics

**Resources**

Literacy and spelling apps: [Literacy Apps | Reading Rockets](https://www.readingrockets.org/literacyapps)

Assistive technologies and tools for reading/writing: [www.ATHelp.org](https://www.athelp.org/)

https://www.readingrockets.org/literacyapps

[dyslexia.yale.edu](https://dyslexia.yale.edu/)

[interdys.org](https://dyslexiaida.org/)

[wrightslaw.com](https://www.readwritethink.org/)

[readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

**Additional Information**

**What is pediatric neuropsychology?**

* Pediatric neuropsychology is a subspecialty of neuropsychology focusing on brain and behavior relationships in children.
* Visit ([scn40.org/](https://scn40.org/)) for more information.

**What is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist?**

* Board certification requires a clinician to have specialized training in neuropsychology. Each has also passed a rigorous written and oral examination demonstrating knowledge and skills in neuropsychology.
* Board-certified neuropsychologists have attained formal certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN).
* A board-certified pediatric subspecialist has attained a formal certification in the subspecialty of pediatric neuropsychology by ABPP and ABCN.

**How do I find a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist?**

* You can search for a board-certified neuropsychologist or a pediatric subspecialist on the AACN website ([theaacn.org/](https://theaacn.org/)).
* Once you find a neuropsychologist near you, click on the clinician’s name for more information and how to contact the clinician.