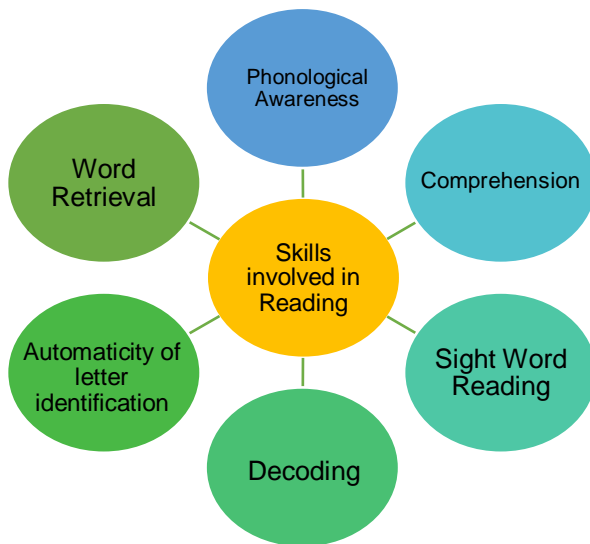




Specific Learning Disorder in Reading

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.



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.

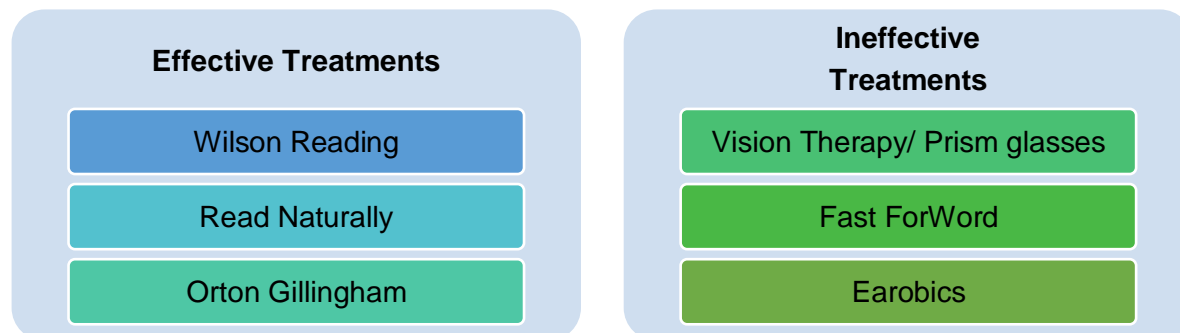
A school-based evaluation:	An evaluation by a pediatric neuropsychologist may be needed if:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires schools to provide an evaluation for children with suspected learning disorders. ● For more information on the process and steps involved, visit https://sites.ed.gov/idea/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.



Resources

Tools	Books	Websites
Literacy and spelling apps: Literacy Apps Reading Rockets Assistive technologies and tools for reading/writing: www.ATHelp.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overcoming Dyslexia: Completely Revised and Updated. By Shaywitz, S. E., & Shaywitz, J.• Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain. By Maryann Wolf	<ul style="list-style-type: none">dyslexia.yale.eduinterdys.orgwrightslaw.comreadingrockets.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/) 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/).
- ❖ Once you find a neuropsychologist near you, click on the clinician's name for more information and how to contact the clinician.