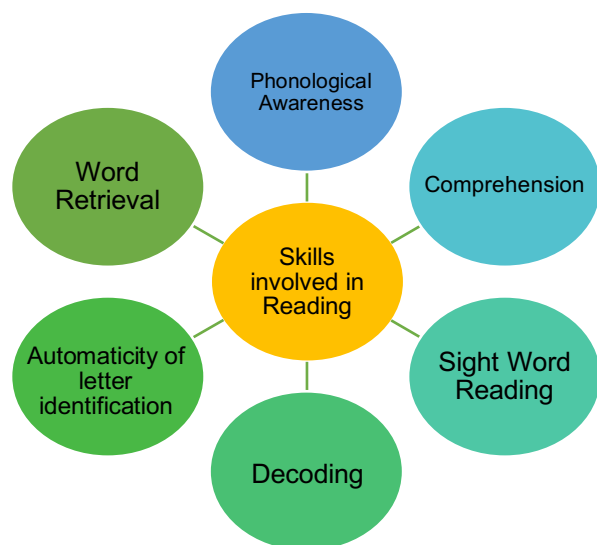




Specific Learning Disorder in Reading

What is a Specific Learning Disorder in Reading?

A child may have a reading disorder if their 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).

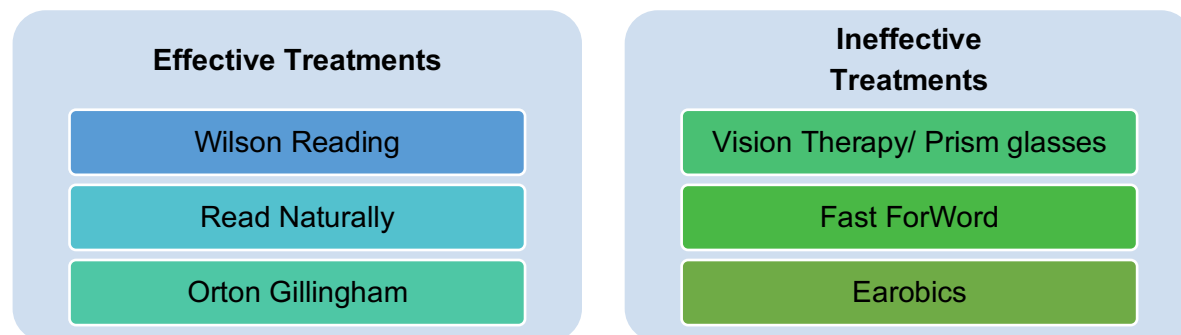
Treatment

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 written units of sound (letters) to their speech sounds (phonemes)
- Fluency: Ability to read smoothly with little effort
- Comprehension: Understanding what you have read

A resource sheet for Parents and Professionals. Brought to you as a public service by the Pediatric Neuropsychology Special Interest Group of the AACN.

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, as well as treatments not supported by research.



Resources

Tools	Books	Websites
Phonics Genius	The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan by Ben Foss (2016)	dyslexia.yale.edu
See.Touch.Learn	Overcoming Dyslexia: Completely Revised and Updated by Sally &	interdys.org
Dragon Dictation		headstrongnation.org
		readwritethink.org
		wrightslaw.com

Additional Information

What is pediatric neuropsychology?

- ❖ Pediatric neuropsychology is a field of psychology focusing on brain and behavior relationships in children.
- ❖ Visit (div40.org/resources.htm) for more information.

What is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist?

- ❖ Board certification requires a clinician to have specialized training in neuropsychology. They have also passed a rigorous written and oral examination demonstrating their 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).

How do I find a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist?

- ❖ You can search for a board-certified neuropsychologist on the AACN website (<http://theaacn.org>).
- ❖ Once you find a neuropsychologist near you, click on their name for more information, including the kinds of people they work with and how to contact them.