What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a language-based disability that involves difficulty learning to read or interpret letters, words, or sounds. Dyslexia is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and reading skills. It is considered a learning disorder. Students with dyslexia benefit from early assessment, tutoring and intervention and can become successful readers and students. Having the diagnosis of dyslexia qualifies a student for a 504 plan or an IEP (Individualized Education Plan).

The most prevailing myth is that dyslexics see/read things backwards. A student may reverse letters or words due to the difficulty in remembering letter symbols and the related sounds as well as sequencing in how a letter is formed. Your pediatrician can rule out a vision or hearing issue.

Signs your child may have dyslexia:

- Speech delay
- Difficulty rhyming
- Trouble learning new words
- Confusing similar sounding words
- Problems learning letters, numbers, and colors
- Delayed reading
- Trouble processing
- Confusing small words such as at/to or and/said
- Difficulty spelling
- Reversing letters such as d and b and/or letter inversion such as w for m
- Learning letter names and their associated sounds
- Word reversals such as saw for was while reading and spelling
- Difficulty recalling the correct word when speaking
- Difficulty retelling a story in the correct sequence
- Slow to add new vocabulary when talking
- Difficulty organizing written and spoken language
- Reading quickly enough to comprehend
- Stamina when reading longer assignments
- Learning a foreign language
- Correctly doing math operations
- Memorizing number facts
- Difficulty learning to tell time
Dyslexia

What to do if you are concerned?

See your doctor to rule out any medical issues, ADHD, speech delay or hearing issues. At the same time, talk to your child’s school about getting tested for learning disabilities.

Check out these resources for help:

1. Arizona Literacy and Learning Center (ALLC) provides free screenings at various Valley locations.
2. Screening and tutoring for Dyslexia at https://www.dyslexiaconnection.com
4. The support group, Decoding Dyslexia AZ, provides support and advocacy for kids with Dyslexia.
5. Melmed Center, Serin Center, Dr. Raymond Bunch at PCH, and Gentry Pediatric Behavioral Services can screen your child for learning disabilities, ADHD, and Dyslexia. Phone numbers are on our referral list on our website.
6. The Dyslexia Law: SB 1461 defines Dyslexia in statute and allows parents to exempt their child from the states “Move on When Reading” requirement which states students be held back if they are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade and allows teachers to include dyslexia training toward their required continuing education credits.