

10 Facts Every SLP Needs to Know About Dyslexia

Despite being one of the most prevalent learning disabilities, dyslexia is often under-diagnosed. Speech-Language Pathologists have the ability to identify early warning signs of dyslexia and implement early intervention. It is imperative to know the facts in order to provide preventative treatment.

1. Speech-Language Pathologists are often unknowingly treating young children who have dyslexia.
2. Specific language impairment (SLI) and dyslexia may be comorbid.
3. Phonological processing deficits are often associated with dyslexia, but that is not necessarily true for children with (SLI) alone.
4. Early warning signs, such as difficulty learning letter names, remembering their address, and a family history of reading disabilities, can be used to help monitor children at risk, inform others of the need for screenings, or provide preventative treatment.
5. There are many important ways SLPs can be involved in the appropriate diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia. Consultation with the general or special education teachers, parents, or literacy team is one way to help initiate early intervention.
6. A child requires a strong foundation in phonological awareness and phonics to be a good and efficient reader.
7. According to ASHA, SLPs' scope of practice involves the prevention, identification, assessment, and intervention of children with reading disabilities.
8. Treatment will differ according to the SLP's practice setting. For example, the school SLP's work will more than likely be done in the context of a team approach with reading specialists and special education teachers. The clinical SLP will have the ability to provide a more intense treatment approach.
9. Listening to audiobooks or podcasts at home is a great way to recommend that the child is continually be exposed to complex language structures.
10. *Overcoming Dyslexia* by Sally E. Shaywitz, M.D. is a must read SLPs to gain deeper insight and understanding into the neurology of dyslexia.