

Gifted/Twice-Exceptionality Fact Sheet

Dyslexia

The term “twice-exceptional,” (aka “2e”) is used to describe gifted children who have the characteristics of gifted students with the potential for high achievement and give evidence of one or more disabilities as defined by federal or state eligibility criteria.

Specific Learning Disability in Reading (otherwise known as Dyslexia) is a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words (decoding). Dyslexia affects areas of the brain that process language and, as a result, reading becomes a slow, effortful and not a fluent process for them. Dyslexia can also manifest as:

- Difficulty reading, including reading aloud
- Slow and labor-intensive reading and writing
- Avoiding activities that involve reading
- Mispronouncing names or words, or problems retrieving words
- Trouble understanding jokes or expressions that have a meaning not easily understood from the specific words (idioms), such as "piece of cake"
- Spending an unusually long time completing tasks that involve reading or writing
- Difficulty summarizing a story
- Trouble learning a foreign language
- Difficulty memorizing
- Difficulty doing math problems

Treatment:

- 1) Occupational Therapy – Using skills for organizing and creating structure
- 2) Speech-Language Pathologist – working on forming sounds and words appropriate and teaching pacing and anxiety management
- 3) 504 Plans at School – structural and behavioral support in the school environment
- 4) G/IEP – accommodating the major strengths and weaknesses of a 2e profile. We want to play to the strengths of the child and support the weaknesses as well as we can.
- 5) Reading Support – Orton-Gillingham or
<http://dyslexia.yale.edu/resources/educators/instruction/kids-cant-wait-strategies-to-support-struggling-readers/>

Diagnostic Checklist:

<https://www.davidsongifted.org/search-database/entry/a10226>

Further reading:

<https://www.davidsongifted.org/search-database/entry/a10435>

<https://www.jeffcogifted.org/2e---twice-exceptional.html>

<http://www.dyslexiakit.net/twice-exceptional-2e-2x-school/>