

Questions

Parents Can Ask...

About Reading Improvement and Dyslexia



Dyslexia is a learning disability that affects language skills such as reading, spelling and writing. If your child struggles with reading and you suspect dyslexia, you need specific information about how you can support your child's reading progress and what it means to have dyslexia. The questions below will help you to gather the information you need. Select the questions that relate to your child, whether you are attending a parent/teacher conference or participating in an IEP (Individualized Education Program) meeting. Use the space provided to record the answers from your child's teacher(s), education specialist, or support team.

Remember: Always ask for an explanation of anything that you do not understand.

If you have questions about your child's reading, ask. . .

1. I am concerned about my child's reading because I've noticed _____. What are you observing about my child's reading skills? How do they compare to what is expected at this grade?

2. Can you describe your approach to reading instruction for students in your classroom?

3. Which research based reading program is being used with my child? What skills does this reading program emphasize? How is this program a good fit for my child?

4. What specific strategies are being used in the classroom to help my child improve in reading?

5. What additional supports and services would work best for my child? How long will it take for us to know it's working?

6. How will you measure and track progress? How often?

7. How often will I receive an update on my child's progress? What is the best way for us to communicate?

8. What can I do at home to help my child read better?

9. What resources can you or someone else give me to support my child and better understand his /her challenges?

If you have questions about Dyslexia and special education, ask . . .

1. I am concerned my child may have dyslexia. Where can I get more information about dyslexia?

2. Are you seeing dyslexia affect my child in areas other than reading (such as math, writing, spelling or non-academic areas)?

3. How can we determine if my child has a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) such as dyslexia?

4. How will we know if my child needs special education services through an IEP (Individualized Education Program)?

If you have questions about your child's IEP (Individualized Education Program), ask. . .

1. Can you tell me how my child's typical day looks so I can better understand how the IEP is implemented?

2. How often and in what ways will regular education and special education work together to help my child be successful?

3. What specialized training do you have to help teach children with dyslexia?

4. How does the instruction my child is receiving address his/her specific needs in reading?

5. Besides reading, what other challenges if any should my child's IEP address?

6. What specific accommodations or supports does my child need in each academic subject and special area classes because of his/her reading, writing and/or spelling needs?

7. Are there assistive technology devices and/or services that can benefit my child (such as audio books, screen readers, electronic device with apps)?

8. How will you measure and track progress? How often?

9. What is the next step if my child is not making expected progress towards his/her IEP goals?