

# PC READS

*Park City Recognizes, Educates, and Advocates for Dyslexic Students*

## WARNING SIGNS

### Preschool:

- ◆ delayed speech
- ◆ confusion of left vs. right
- ◆ difficulty learning to tie shoes
- ◆ can't create words that rhyme

### Elementary School:

- ◆ poor handwriting
- ◆ letter or number reversals continuing past the 1st grade
- ◆ terrible spelling
- ◆ slow, choppy, inaccurate reading
- ◆ can't or won't sound out unknown words
- ◆ misreads, omits or adds small function words such as: an, a, the, from, to, were, of, are
- ◆ difficulty telling time using a clock with hands
- ◆ extremely messy bedroom, backpack and desk

### High School:

- ◆ extremely poor written expression
- ◆ large discrepancy between verbal skills and written compositions
- ◆ unable to master a foreign language
- ◆ limited vocabulary

\*See [www.dys-add.com](http://www.dys-add.com) for more



*Park City READS* is a local group of parents, educators and students advocating on behalf of struggling readers, particularly those identified as dyslexic. Dyslexia is a specific learning disability characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities.

### *Our mission is to:*

- Assist families and educators with recognizing the signs of dyslexia, provide resources and support, and offer referrals for services, including testing and tutoring.
- Ensure that dyslexic students are receiving support in their educational setting, through early identification and appropriate classroom and testing accommodations.
- Advocate within the Park City School District for early recognition of dyslexia and appropriate educational intervention and support.





## Strategies for struggling readers....

1. Request extra time on tests. It has been proven that this is not unfair to others. Individuals without learning difficulties, when given extra time, do not perform at a higher level; but those who have reading difficulties do.
2. Use recorded versions of textbooks and novels. Listening to someone else read a book is a great way to learn information and save a great deal of time.
3. Use a computer for taking notes and writing assignments. Borrow other individual's notes and record lectures.
4. Try a speech-to-text program to assist you with writing papers. It is common that dyslexics write slower, are poor spellers, and have poor handwriting.

## Myths vs. Facts about Dyslexia

**Myth:** Dyslexia is rare and there is no way to diagnose it.

**Fact:** According to NIH research, dyslexia affects 20% of the US population (1 of every 5 people). It is the most common reason for a student to struggle with spelling, written expression, and reading. While students typically “hit the wall” in third grade without intervention, professionals can diagnose dyslexia as early as the age of 5.

**Myth:** Dyslexia can be cured.

**Fact:** Dyslexia is a lifelong condition. While early identification and treatment is key to helping individuals with dyslexia achieve in school and in life, it is not outgrown or cured.

**Myth:** People with Dyslexia “read backwards.”

**Fact:** Although spelling can look quite jumbled, dyslexia is a language-based learning disability primarily evidenced by a difficulty in reading; however, many people also experience difficulty with spelling, writing, and pronunciation.

**Myth:** If you perform well in school, you can't be dyslexic. Smart people aren't dyslexic.

**Fact:** Dyslexia occurs in individuals at all levels of intelligence from average all the way to gifted. Many dyslexics perform very well in school. They have to work incredibly hard and may be receiving necessary accommodations to allow them to demonstrate their knowledge.

**Myth:** People who are dyslexic cannot read.

**Fact:** Most dyslexics do learn to read. It is a much more difficult task and requires a greater effort. Typical readers learn to be “fluent” early, while dyslexics are “manual” readers who read slowly and with a great deal of effort.