



# The RITES FACTS

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## WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?

### The Definition of Dyslexia

Individuals with dyslexia have trouble with reading, writing, spelling and/or math, even though they have the ability and have had opportunities to learn. Individuals with dyslexia can learn, but they often need specialized instruction to overcome the problem. Often these individuals, who have talented and productive minds, are said to have a language learning difference<sup>1</sup>. Reading problems are the most common type of academic underachievement. Especially for students with dyslexia, learning to read and write can be exceedingly difficult. Dyslexia and related reading and language difficulties are the result of neurobiological variations, but they can be treated with effective instruction.

<sup>1</sup>Source: *The International Dyslexia Association (IDA)* <http://www.interdys.org>

### Dyslexia: Facts to know

- Approximately 15% - 20% of the population has a learning disability. In an average size classroom, this means about 3 or 4 children.
- People with learning disabilities are generally of average or above average intelligence.
- Students who do not receive appropriate intervention and support may experience loss of self-esteem and anxiety.
- Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. Dyslexia refers to a group of symptoms, which result in people having difficulties with language skills, particularly reading. It is referred to as a learning disability because it can make it very difficult for a student to succeed academically in the typical instructional environment.
- Dyslexia occurs in people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels. People who are very bright can be dyslexic. For example, did you know that Walt Disney, Erin Brockovich and Thomas Edison were dyslexic? Due to their creative thinking styles, many dyslexics are highly accomplished actors, filmmakers, writers, doctors, athletes, entrepreneurs, and business leaders.

### Effective Instruction For Dyslexia

Today, due to better understanding, some of the stigma has been removed from being dyslexic. Informed parents and trained teachers can work effectively with these children using this new knowledge. Our dyslexics don't need to suffer like they did years ago. Effective instruction is available!

Effective instruction employs teaching approaches that have been studied and tested by experts in the field of education. Researchers have found that students benefit the most from instructional approaches that are explicit, systematic, cumulative, and multisensory. They integrate the teaching of listening, speaking, reading, spelling, and vocabulary. Rhode Island Tutorial & Educational Services' certified teachers are specially trained in these types of proven instructional methods, such as Orton-Gillingham, Project Read<sup>®</sup> and Wilson<sup>®</sup>.