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LEARNING DISABILITIES: DYSLEXIA

STRATEGIES FOR ASSISTING WITH ACADEMIC DIFFICULTIES

What is dyslexia?

A language-based learning disability

- Usually specifically related to reading
- Can include spelling and writing issues

Approximately 15-20% of the population have dyslexia-like symptoms, including:

- Slow reading
- Mixing up/confusing words
- Spelling errors
- Pronunciation errors

How might we help children and adolescents experiencing dyslexia?

- Asking students to verbally summarize main idea(s) (who and what) of something they are reading
- Encouraging:
 - Self-questioning
 - Use of mnemonic devices (a pattern or rhyme to help with memory)
 - Graphic organizers
 - Check-lists
 - Prompt cards
- Asking students to extend discussion of main idea(s) from a reading
 - This can increase student motivation and engagement
- Providing specific feedback and opportunities for students to explain and practice what they have learned



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- Observing and recording students' letter and sound knowledge and awareness during reading (This may be the best way to help students in the early stages of dyslexia)

Are there any local resources available for help?

- Dyslexia Tutors: http://guelph.universitytutor.com/guelph_dyslexia-tutoring
- Different organizations hold conferences and presentations for specific learning disabilities; more information can be found by searching sites like Google, Twitter, and The Cannon for community events

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