

Dyslexia Resource Guide for Continental Families

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is one of the most common learning disabilities. People with dyslexia have many strengths, but have unexpected trouble learning to read. These difficulties are not related to a person's intelligence or motivation. Children with dyslexia can learn to read. Families, early childhood teachers, or kindergarten teachers are often the first to notice children having difficulty with talking or learning at school. It is important to pay attention to potential signs that a child may have dyslexia. Children with dyslexia can show any mix of signs. While any one sign does not necessarily mean your child has dyslexia, it is important to talk with your child's teachers if you have concerns.

What are the signs that my child may have dyslexia?

Preschool- delay in learning to talk, pronouncing words can be a challenge ("pusgetti" for "spaghetti"), persistent "baby talk", remembering nursery rhymes and chants can be a challenge, difficulty naming letters/numbers, telling stories that are hard to follow.

K-2nd Grade- doesn't associate letter or letter combinations with sounds, sounding out simple words like cat, map, and nap is a challenge, a history of reading problems in parents or siblings, reads slowly, reads words incorrectly or reads without expression, confusion with pairs such as before/after, right/left, etc.

3rd-5th Grade- often guessing words because they cannot sound them out, better at answering questions about text if it is read aloud, difficulty pronouncing words correctly (e.g. "mazingine" for "magazine"), writing can be a challenge, with frequent spelling mistakes, skipping or misreading common short words.

How does a child at Continental get screened for signs of dyslexia?

During the 2023-2024 school year, Continental will screen all children for dyslexia warning signs in grades K-3. After the 2023-2024 school year, all Kindergarten students will be screened for dyslexia each year, and in grades 1-6, screenings can be done if requested by family. If your child is screened and the school identifies signs of dyslexia, you will receive communication from your child's school. Your child will then be given a more in-depth screener, and his/her teacher will begin providing additional support in the classroom. This is called "structured literacy instruction". Schools will not provide a diagnosis of dyslexia. Diagnosing dyslexia requires testing by a qualified provider such as a neuropsychologist or speech-language pathologist.

What will change at school if my child has a dyslexia diagnosis or is suspected of having dyslexia?

If your child is diagnosed with dyslexia, or is suspected of having dyslexia, Continental will provide in-classroom support for academic subjects. Children with dyslexia continue to learn in the same classroom they were in before. Parents will be notified about what the school is doing to support a child with learning.

How do I help my child at home?

It is Continental's job to provide a free and appropriate public education to every child. Families are important partners in educating children. Parents can ask a child's teachers for ideas/strategies of how they can assist at home, consistent with what the school is teaching.

Timeline for screenings

1. Administer Tier 1 Screener to K-3 (DIBELS 8th Ed.).
2. All K-3 parents will be notified of results.
3. If your child is at risk parents will be notified. The student will receive extra reading instruction with the Title Reading teacher everyday for 30 min.
4. Every 10 school days (for 6 weeks) your child will be progress monitored and results will be sent home.
5. If your child is not showing enough progress a Tier 2 screener (IMSE screener) will be administered and results sent home.

Continental's Structured Literacy Program

Continental adopted a new reading program in 2022 called Amplify with mClass. It is a structured literacy program that follows a specific order to teach reading, from simple to more complex skills. Continental's Title Reading program is using Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham Plus (IMSE Impact Structured Literacy Program). All Reading teachers have had 30 hours of structured literacy training and the Title I Teacher is a Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist.

Where can I go to learn more about dyslexia and Ohio Schools?

[Dyslexia Supports in Ohio Schools, go.osu.edu/dylsexiaguide](https://go.osu.edu/dylsexiaguide)

We all learn differently. We're going to find out how you learn best.

