

# Choosing the Best School for Your Child with

Dyslexia



A Guide for Parents



**Parents have many questions after their child receives a formal dyslexia diagnosis. One of those questions is:**

**Will my child's needs be met  
in his or her current school?**

Advocating for your dyslexic child is one of your most important opportunities as a parent. A big part of that is choosing the best learning environment — one that is set up to maximize potential for dyslexic students.

There are many options at hand, and dyslexia can range from mild or moderate to severe. Choosing a school that is the best fit begins with understanding your child's unique abilities and challenges. From there, you can begin to identify specific educational needs and possible gaps in his or her current learning environment.

This booklet was created to help you understand what to look for when weighing school options. From ideal class sizes to accessible tutoring services, you'll learn what dyslexic students need to thrive.

## Dyslexia Defined

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disorder characterized by frequent errors in word recognition, a lack of fluency (or “smoothness”) when reading, and poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties stem from a deficit in the phonological (sound system) component of language, despite having the cognitive ability to learn.

### Before a child is diagnosed with dyslexia, parents may notice them:

- Struggling to detect and manipulate sounds in words that are heard
- Having difficulty learning the sound/symbol relationships essential for sounding out words
- Relying on memorization, sight word reading, and/or guessing when it comes to reading words
- Becoming frustrated when reading or being reluctant to read
- Suffering from feelings of inadequacy or low self-confidence around peers
- Displaying feelings of anxiety or depression, or acting out as a result of challenges



### Children with dyslexia often have difficulty with:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spelling
- Speech
- Pronouncing larger words
- Rhyming
- Memorization of math facts and multiplication tables
- Sequences, such as tying shoelaces
- Learning right and left

# Dyslexia is:

## Prevalent

Most studies indicate that 5 – 10% of the entire population has dyslexia, but the actual numbers may be higher.

**Dyslexia is by far the most common learning disability.**

**Some of history's most successful adults — Einstein, Thomas Edison, and Benjamin Franklin — were dyslexic.**



## Permanent

Children do not grow out of dyslexia; however, with the right intervention, hard work and support, they can overcome or manage associated reading problems.

## Phonological Deficits

Dyslexia affects the phonological module of the brain where sounds are put together to form words (and where words are broken down into sounds).

**Dyslexic students use only the right side of the brain to process language, while non-dyslexics use both right and left.**

***If your child struggles with dyslexia, finding the optimal learning environment is vital. Here are a few important areas to examine:***

### Intensive, Specialized Instruction

- Small class sizes
- Explicit, daily, one-on-one or small group specialized tutoring to address phonological weaknesses
- Close progress monitoring to respond to the unique learning profiles of individual students

### Expert Educators

- Teachers who have expertise in helping students learn how to overcome the challenges associated with dyslexia
- Clinically trained tutors available for daily intervention
- Targeted intervention to develop reading skills and maximize opportunities to access the curriculum

### Challenging Curriculum

- Lessons tailored to the learning profile of your child
- A rigorous on-grade-level curriculum
- Brain-based training that strengthens phonemic awareness and the ability to sound out words for efficient reading

# The Life-Changing Impacts of Tutoring

Most dyslexic students will require tutoring throughout their education. At Tampa Day School, highly skilled tutors tailor the instructional level and approach to foster the development of phonemic awareness, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary development, writing, and comprehension. In addition, for those students who struggle to memorize math facts, tutors help students to develop strategies to more efficiently retain and recall basic math facts.



## A Multisensory Approach

Our researched-based program differs from other remedial reading programs by integrating the senses of hearing, seeing and feeling (multisensory approach) to effectively improve critical reading skills

## We offer:

- An evidenced-based reading clinic
- Content-specific and general tutoring services
- Individual and small group tutoring
- Year-round ADHD support services (many dyslexic students also have ADHD)

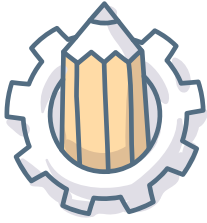


## How Tutoring Works at TDS

- 1 A customized treatment plan designed to address each child's specific needs is developed using data from an initial evaluation.
- 2 Frequent assessment data is reviewed to ensure optimal reading gains and to provide parents with updated information about progress.
- 3 Students at TDS experience the added benefit of close collaboration between the tutor and the classroom teacher.
- 4 By having the option of scheduling tutoring within the course of the school day, students have time after school for clubs, sports, and family life!



# Dyslexic Students Realize Their Potential at Tampa Day School



## Learning Tools

Through accommodations such as access to audio books, spell-check devices, and other technologies, students are empowered by the innovative tools available to them.



## Accommodations

Routine testing accommodations, such as provision of readers for annually administered standardized tests (i.e., math), extended time, and computer access for writing, enhance success in the formative years.



## College Prep

TDS offers a college-prep core curriculum with supplemental instruction in critical reading skills, either in the classroom environment or through one-on-one onsite tutoring.



**Download our Prospective Parents Brochure?**



**Schedule a Tour?**



12606 Henderson Road  
Tampa, FL 33625



p. 813.269.2100  
f. 813.490.2554