

# Developmental Disorders in Children

## **Dyslexia**



**Child Assessment Service**

Department of Health

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

[www.dhcas.gov.hk](http://www.dhcas.gov.hk)



## 01 What is Dyslexia?

Children with dyslexia have difficulty in reading, spelling and dictation. Even though they spend a lot of time in revision, they find it difficult to remember how to read or write some words.



They cannot read fluently, and they are easily confused with words and characters that sound, mean or look alike. When writing Chinese words, confusion of radical components, number and sequence of strokes may occur.



They have normal intelligence, and their reading difficulties are not caused by sensory impairment, nor the lack of educational opportunity



## 02 What causes Dyslexia?



Dyslexia is caused by congenital factors, part of the cause is related to heredity. Inherent differences in the structure and function of the brain affect their function of word processing. Children with dyslexia have difficulty in mapping the print, sound and meaning of words altogether.





### 03 How does **Dyslexia** affect children?

In learning, children with dyslexia find it excessively difficult to learn words. Even though they spend a long time in revision, their dictation results are often unsatisfactory. As a result, their academic achievements drop gradually.



In the upper grade, even though they can recognize more words, they have difficulties in reading comprehension. These greatly hamper their motivation to learn, resulting in further academic failure.

Psychologically, children with dyslexia have lower confidence and self-esteem, as they may think they are incompetent when compared to the others. Emotionally, they may feel anxious and frustrated.



### 04 How to help children with **Dyslexia**?

The mainstay of management lies in education. Adopting evidence-based teaching methods, providing appropriate accommodation and assisting equipment. In learning Chinese, awareness of the internal structure and meaningful components of the characters is essential. Teaching explicit word attack strategies by segregating the sound and meaning components of the words.

In learning English, teaching letter-sound correspondence is helpful.



Psychologically, it is crucial for parents and teachers to be sympathetic about the challenges the children have, and provide encouragement in a timely manner. Besides, encourage children to develop their talents in other areas, such as visual arts, sports or music, so as to build up their confidence to overcome future challenges.





## 05 What is the outlook of children with **Dyslexia?**



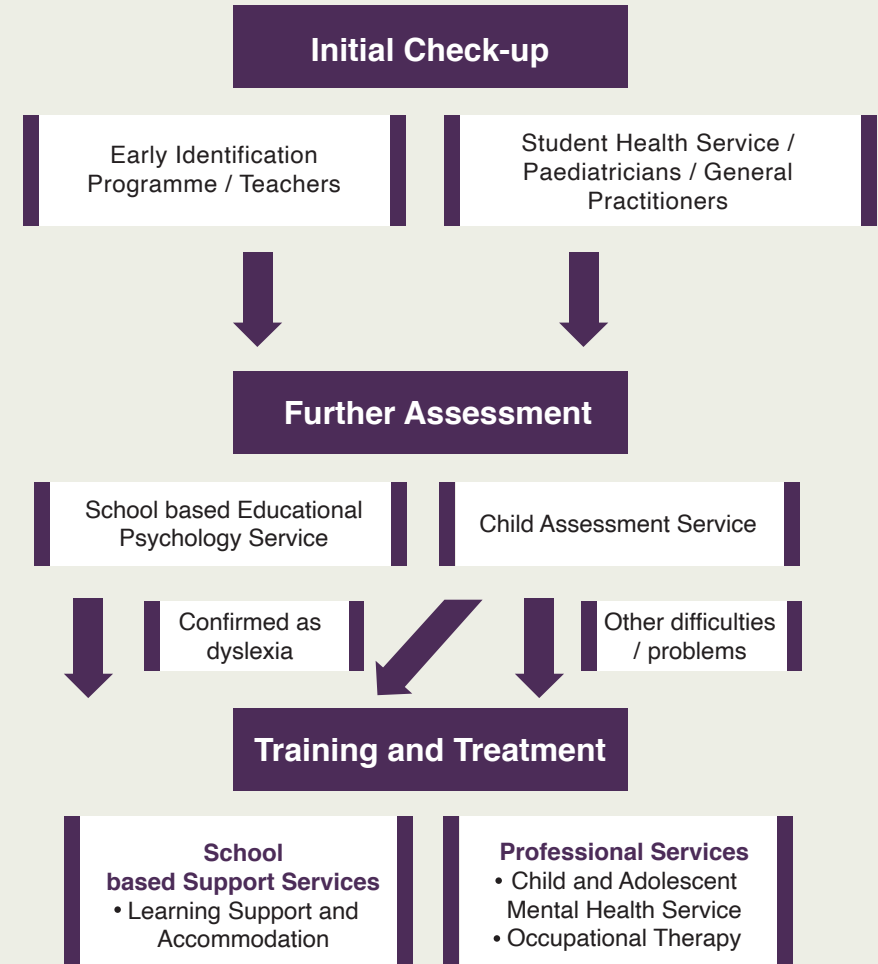
Although there is no documented medical treatment for dyslexia at this moment, nor will it disappear as the child grows up, different training and learning methods can be used to ameliorate or overcome difficulties faced by these children.



The outlook of these children depends on their severity of dyslexia, whether they have received appropriate and effective training, and proper management of any associated comorbid problems.



## Referral and Management







## Related **Websites**

**Education Bureau: Integrated Education and Special Education Information Online**

<https://sense.edb.gov.hk/en/index.html>

**Early Literacy for Chinese Children**

[www.cayanedu.wixsite.com/chinese](http://www.cayanedu.wixsite.com/chinese)

**Hong Kong Education City : Inclusion Pavilion**

[www.hkedcity.net/sen](http://www.hkedcity.net/sen)

**Hong Kong Specific Learning Difficulties Research Team**

[www.psychology.hku.hk/hksld/index\\_e.html](http://www.psychology.hku.hk/hksld/index_e.html)

**British Dyslexia Association**

[www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

**International Dyslexia Association**

[www.dyslexiaida.org](http://www.dyslexiaida.org)

**LD online**

[www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)

**Focus on Children's Understanding in School**

<https://www.focus.org.hk/>



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