Orthophonie
VoxLingue
Speech and Language

Printable sheet

Signs of dyslexia by grade, and questions to ask your child's teacher

One sign on its own means little. What matters is a cluster of signs that lasts despite good teaching. Check what you notice, and bring this sheet to your next meeting with the school.

What I notice

Pre-K
maternelle 4 ans · Ontario Year 1

- [ ] No interest in sound games or rhymes
- [ ] Struggles to learn rhymes and songs
- [ ] Started talking late

Kindergarten
maternelle 5 ans · Ontario Year 2

- [ ] Knows few letters and their sounds by year end
- [ ] Can't find the first sound in a word
- [ ] Finds writing their name hard

Grade 1

- [ ] Doesn't link letters and sounds after a few months
- [ ] Reads very slowly, word by word, and tires out

Grade 2

- [ ] Reading still slow and halting
- [ ] Spelling that doesn't follow the sounds
- [ ] Avoids reading, says they're “bad at it”

- [ ] A parent, brother or sister has dyslexia
- [ ] My child had a language delay or disorder

Questions for the teacher

1. How is my child doing with letter names and sounds?
2. What is already in place in class to help?
3. Can the resource teacher or orthopédagogue see them?
4. When will we check in again together?
5. Would a support plan help? (No diagnosis needed.)

Québec: first report card by November 20; monthly updates if your child is struggling. Ontario: ask for the fall reading screen results.

See a speech-language pathologist without waiting if...

- halfway through grade 1, they still struggle with letters or sounds;
- several signs last despite teaching;
- there's a family history and some signs;
- your child had a language delay;
- you're worried.

Learning to read in French but speaking another language at home? Say so: the SLP takes both languages into account.

My notes for the meeting

Sources: Québec Ministry of Education, preschool program (2023); National Early Literacy Panel (2008); Snowling and Melby-Lervåg (2016); Québec Education Act (s. 96.14); Basic school regulation (s. 29.1, 29.2); Ontario PPM 168 (2023). General information: this sheet does not replace an assessment.