



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

According to the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity, 20% of the global population has dyslexia. One of the best treatments for dyslexia is early detection and intervention. Knowing that 1 in 5 students have dyslexia, we've partnered with your child's preschool to share information about early signs of dyslexia and present resources if you would like to learn more.

Our Alliance is deeply aware of the sensitivity around dyslexia, as some of us have it ourselves or are supporting children of our own with dyslexia. The intent of this letter is to help normalize this conversation for educators, parents and children. As one mom on our team stated, "I wish I knew in preschool that my son might have dyslexia. It would have encouraged me to learn more and be proactive with his K-2 teachers when he struggled with certain milestones." For those who may resonate, we hope this letter is of comfort and provides a little more clarity into why your child may be approaching reading in a different way than their peers.

#### **What is dyslexia?**

**Dyslexia is defined as a neurologically based learning difference that among other symptoms cause an unexpected difficulty in learning to read.** Dyslexia takes away an individual's ability to read quickly, accurately and automatically. It can also cause difficulty reciting words, learning to spell, and learning sequential tasks like the days of the week, colors or tying shoes. According to the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity, it affects 20 percent of the population and represents 80–90 percent of all those with learning disabilities.

#### **What do I do now?**

**If you suspect your child has dyslexia, early recognition and intervention can have a huge impact on academic success.** Dyslexia is identifiable with 92% accuracy in children at ages 5.5-6.5 years and can be recognized in students as young as 4.5. According to the Harvard Medical School, "With early intervention, many children at risk for dyslexia can become skilled readers. In fact, says Gaab, one meta-analysis showed that up to 70 percent of at-risk children who receive educational intervention in kindergarten or first grade become proficient readers." Starting the conversation now could change your child's whole academic experience.

Learning more about dyslexia and how to support your child in the classroom and throughout everyday life is a big first step. You can visit our website at [INWDyslexia.org/preschool](http://INWDyslexia.org/preschool) to learn more about our INW Dyslexia Alliance, provider recommendations in our region, a list of resources, or how to contact us if you would like further information.

We hope you have a wonderful rest of your school year and wish you and your child the very best.

Sincerely,

The INW Dyslexia Alliance Board of Directors

## What is Dyslexia?



1 in 5 students have a learning difference called dyslexia.



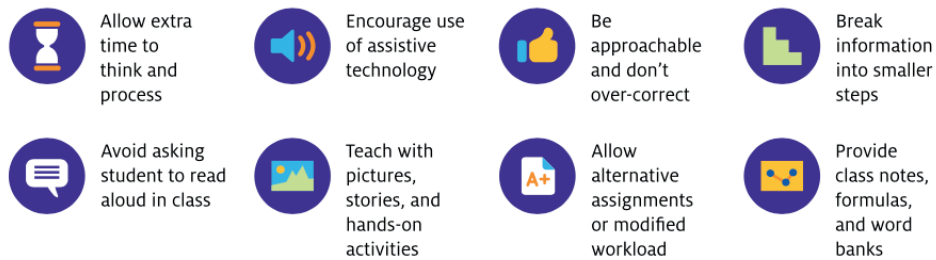
### Strengths You May See



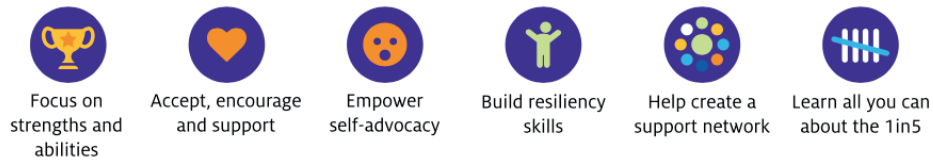
### Weaknesses You May Notice



## Supporting Students with Dyslexia in the Classroom



## Other Things You Can Do to Help



### Signs of Dyslexia in Preschool:

- Mispronouncing words, like saying beddy tear instead of teddy bear or aminal for animal or pasketi for spaghetti
- Struggling to name familiar objects or forgetting labels and using general words like thing and stuff
- Having a hard time learning nursery rhymes or song lyrics that rhyme
- Having trouble remembering sequences, like singing the letters of the alphabet, order of the rainbow, days of the week or seasons
- Telling stories that are hard to follow or having trouble talking about an event in a logical order
- Having difficulty remembering and following directions with multiple steps

Source: *Understood.org*