

The Primary School Signs: Ages 7-12 Years

Pupil's Name: _____

Date: _____

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If a pupil, between 7 and 12 years of age, displays any of the following characteristics, the teacher should intervene. The presence of a number of these characteristics or those on the previous checklist for 5-7 year olds may indicate that the child has dyslexic learning difficulties. When considering these characteristics, it is important to remain mindful of the following:

- a. No child will have all these characteristics.
- b. Some characteristics are more common than others.
- c. All children will have some of these characteristics to some degree.
- d. The number of symptoms seen in a particular child does not give an indication as to whether the dyslexia is mild or severe. It is important to consider if the behaviours are chronic and appear in clusters.

Reading:

- 1. ___ Has continued difficulty reading text aloud or silently
- 2. ___ Reading achievement is below expectation
- 3. ___ Is slow at discerning and learning prefixes, suffixes, root words and other morphemes as part of reading and spelling strategies
- 4. ___ Poor reading accuracy, fluency or speed interferes with reading comprehension

Spelling:

- 1. ___ Spelling is inappropriate for age and general ability (e.g., spelling the same word differently on

the same page, use of bizarre spelling patterns, frequent letter omissions, additions and transpositions)

2. ___ Poor spelling contributes to poor written expression (e.g., may avoid use of unfamiliar words)

Arithmetic: difficulty in performing arithmetic operations or in understanding basic concepts

1. ___ Experiences language-related problems in math (e.g., when reading word problems and directions, confuses numbers and symbols)

Memory

1. ___ Still confuses letter sequences (e.g., *soiled* for *solid*; *left* for *felt*)
2. ___ Is unable to learn multiplication tables by rote
3. ___ Still confuses some directional words (e.g., left and right)
4. ___ Has slow or poor recall of facts
5. ___ Forgets to bring in or hand in homework
6. ___ Has difficulty remembering what day or month it is
7. ___ Has difficulty remembering his/her own telephone number or birthday

Reasoning: difficulty in organising and integrating thoughts

1. ___ Lacks understanding of other people's body language and facial expressions
2. ___ Has trouble with non-literal or figurative language (e.g., idioms, proverbs)
3. ___ Has poor planning and organisational skills
4. ___ Has poor time management

Motor coordination: difficulty coordinating eye and hand

1. ___ Has slow, dysfluent and/or illegible handwriting

Behaviour:

1. ___ Uses avoidance tactics when asked to read orally or write
2. ___ Lacks self-confidence and has a poor self-image

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