

# PDX Reading Specialist, LLC



*Learn. Accommodate. Inspire.*

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## **Dyslexia or ELL?**

It is much more difficult for someone with dyslexia to learn to speak a second language. So if some of your ELL students are taking much longer than most of your students to master speaking English, consider the following symptoms for dyslexia that have nothing to do with English.

When did he begin to speak 5 to 10 simple words that you could understand?

- Is he left-right confused?
- Did this student have difficulty learning to tie his shoes?
- Can he write the alphabet in sequence?
- Did he have difficulty learning the names of the letters -- no matter what language he used at the time?
- Can he write his name, address, and phone number? (If he speaks English well enough to be taught in English, he should be able to memorize his name, address, and phone number. That has nothing to do with reading. It is a rote memorization issue.)
- Did he reverse some of his letters and numbers even after two years of handwriting instruction and practice?
- Does he have an odd pencil grip and dysgraphia?
- Does he have trouble telling time on a clock with hands -- even using his native language?
- Does he have trouble memorizing multiplication or math facts?

**If he has 3 or more of those warning signs,  
then it is likely that the student is ELL and has dyslexia.**

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