

TLC



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THINK – LISTEN – COMMUNICATE A SPEECH & LANGUAGE NEWSLETTER

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Asheville Speech offers full reading evaluations Early identification key for helping children with reading disorders

By AISHA AL-MAJED

It is estimated that one out of every five children in the United States (ten million) has a reading disorder. Beginning in Kindergarten, a child will confront the daunting process of learning to read. He will start with learning the letters and sounds of the alphabet, and by the

time he reaches the third grade, the process of learning to read ends and they are expected to read to learn. A child who is diagnosed with a reading disorder displays reading skills below what is expected for their age, intelligence, and education. Developmental Dyslexia is a condition that falls into the category of reading disorders (80 percent of children

with reading disorders have dyslexia). Children who have dyslexia normally have average to above average intelligence, but experience

difficulty decoding words (e.g., sounding words out), which can affect reading, writing and spelling skills.
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Asheville Speech is a Provider for Medicaid, Health Choice, Crescent, MedCost and Blue Cross Blue Shield. We also accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express and **Benny cards.**



Observational mirror now open for therapy

Often times, the presence of another adult in therapy results in the child not responding or behaving in his or her normal fashion. This two-way mirror gives parents an excellent way to observe their child in therapy without the child's knowledge. It also allows Asheville Speech Associates to offer an opportunity for students in speech

pathology to complete their college observational requirements.

In addition, practicing speech therapists have an opportunity to observe other speech therapists working with children with specific problems to experience ongoing learning and consultation.

For more information, please contact us!

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Early signs of reading disorders:

- Difficulty recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and blending sounds into speech
- Trouble learning the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, or similar word sequences
- Slow to learn and use new vocabulary words correctly
- Difficulty with rhyming tasks
- Confusion when pronouncing words (e.g., “mawn lower” instead of “lawn mower”)

Later signs of reading disorders:

- Slow word recognition
- Poor spelling
- Very slow oral reading
- Significant number of mistakes during oral reading
- Difficulty comprehending written passages

A simple screening test can be administered to children in kindergarten through the third grade to help identify those who are experiencing difficulty with pre-reading and early reading skills. A more formal series of tests can be used to evaluate older children. Once a child has been diagnosed with a reading disorder, specialized therapy is normally recommended. A diagnosis of dyslexia also warrants academic accommodations, including allowing extra time in testing environments (as well as the SATs) and a waiver of the foreign language proficiency requirement, which is a part of the curriculums in a majority of middle and high schools. The appropriate intervention can help a child break the reading code while utilizing his strengths, minimizing his weaknesses, and reducing much of the frustration and anxiety of learning to read.

Did You Know?

Asheville Speech Associates can now provide speech therapy in Spanish.

¿Usted Sabía?

Asheville Speech Associates proporciona terapia del discurso en español ahora.

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**Call us today for an appointment.
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