

TOPIC: READING & SPELLING

DEFINITION: Reading disorders occur when a person has trouble with any part of the reading process. These disorders are present from a young age and usually result from specific differences in the way the brain processes language. Current research suggests that there are three types of developmental reading disabilities which often overlap, but can be separate as well.

- Phonological Deficit: difficulty learning letter-sound correspondence, sounding out words, and spelling
- Processing speed/orthographic processing Deficit: weaknesses with word recognition and recall when reading and spelling
- Comprehension Deficit: often due to language disorders such as weak vocabulary, abstract reasoning, and logical thinking

CHARACTERISTICS: There are many different characteristics and types of reading disorders, and not everyone with a reading disorder has every symptom. Symptoms may include the following:

- Problems learning the alphabet and letter sounds (alphabetic principle)
- Problems with phonemic awareness and phonological processing (identifying and manipulating sounds in words)
- Difficulty with rapid automatic naming
- Difficulty recognizing words they already know
- Difficulty sounding out written words (matching letters to sounds, blending sounds into words)
- Poor spelling
- Difficulty reading quickly and accurately
- Problems reading with correct expression
- Problems understanding what they've read
- Problems with working memory
- Problems with processing speed

RECOMMENDATION FOR SERVICES:

- Seek a consult or evaluation with a therapist who is experienced in treating Reading Dysfunction
- It is important to get early detection and early intervention as this will not just "go away".

WHAT TO DO AT HOME:

- Read to your children from a young age
- Teach phonemic awareness skills (rhyming games, breaking words apart into sounds, syllables, etc).
- Teach letters and letter sounds
- Listen to your children read
- Choral reading with older children (reading same passage at the same time)