

## What Is Dyslexia?

"Dyslexia, or Specific Learning Difficulty, is a congenital organizing disability which impairs hand skills, short term memory, and perception so inhibiting the development of a child's literary skills-particularly reading, writing and spelling, and sometimes numeracy. In it's effects, dyslexia can range from slight reading or spelling difficulties to complete illiteracy."

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&ldquo;A different Learning Ability.&rdquo; Barbara Foster, Director Teachers&rsquo; Training, Dyslexia Institute, U.K.

Figures of incidence are not available for Trinidad and Tobago, but extrapolating from internationally accepted data, the number of Dyslexics in our country would be over 100,000 (10%). This is a conservative figure.

### Basic Facts (Dyslexia Institute, U.K.)

- The degree to which the above skills are affected varies for each individual
- Research has shown that differences in nerve cell arrangement and use of the two hemispheres of the brain can be detected in dyslexics
- Approximately 10% of the population (world wide) has this different learning ability with four people out of every 100 needing special help
- Dyslexia, which occurs irrespective of intelligence or background but more often in males, is often hereditary.
- It can affect any language area &ndash; speaking, reading, spelling, writing, organizational skills, and in some cases, mathematics, but strategies can be learned for overcoming it.