



Dysgraphia

The Basic Things You Need to Know About the Writing Disorder

Dysgraphia is the condition of impaired letter writing by hand. It comes from the Greek word, 'graph'- meaning handwriting and handwritten letters, 'dys'- meaning impairment, 'ia'- means having a condition.

Poor handwriting or the inability and extreme struggle to learn to write can be a sign of dysgraphia. You need to know that dysgraphia is a processing disorder, and difficulties can change throughout a lifetime.



DYSLEXIA CONNECTION

Combined with dyslexia affects can include poor oral and written spelling, using phonemic based spelling, normal finger tapping speed, and impaired verbal executive functioning

Note: dyslexia itself does not seem to impair physical writing ability and dysgraphia does not impact reading comprehension

Dysgraphia often overlaps with other learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental disorders.



CAUSE

Orthographic coding or "the ability to store written words in working memory while the letters in the word are analyzed or the ability to create permanent memory of written words linked to their pronunciation and meaning."

<https://dyslexiaida.org/understanding-dysgraphia/>

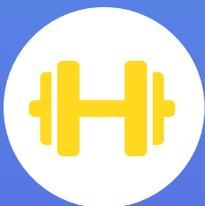
Dysgraphia can also be caused by strokes and brain injuries.



AFFECTS

Can make learning to spell and/or writing quickly challenging

Can include writing reversals, inversions, or transpositions



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Retraining the brain

Activities:

- Tracing letters with index finger or eraser end of a pencil
- Imitating the teaching modeling sequential strokes in letter formation
- Copying letters from models
- Playing with clay, play doh, or items like that to strengthen hand muscles
- Keeping lines within mazes to develop motor control
- Connecting dots or dashes to create complete letter forms

Steps to practice on each letter in different orders daily:

- Studying numbered arrow cues that provide a consistent plan for letter formation
- Covering the letter with a 3x5 card and imaging the letter in the mind's eye
- Writing the letter from memory after interval that increases in duration over the handwriting lessons
- Writing letters from dictation

(lists from <https://dyslexiaida.org/understanding-dysgraphia/>)