



You're your kid's biggest advocate. Spotting learning challenges early can make all the difference in getting them the right support. This guide breaks down key learning differences—written expression disorder (dysgraphia), language disorders, dyscalculia, and dyslexia—so you know what to look for and when to get help.

## 1. Written Expression Disorder (Dysgraphia)

**What it is:** Dysgraphia makes writing tough—not just messy handwriting, but also spelling struggles, grammar mix-ups, and trouble organizing thoughts on paper.

### SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

- Hard-to-read handwriting, weirdly shaped letters, awkward grip
- Spelling errors, trouble remembering sight words
- Sentences that don't flow, grammar mistakes
- Writing that feels scattered or unorganized
- Avoids writing tasks like it's the plague



### WHEN TO GET HELP:

If writing always feels like a battle, talk to their school, pediatrician, or a specialist. The earlier, the better.

## 2. Language Disorders

**What it is:** Language disorders make it hard to understand or use words. This can affect vocabulary, grammar, answering questions, and telling stories.

### SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

- **Understanding words:** Can't follow directions, struggles with stories, answers questions weirdly
- **Speaking issues:** Small vocabulary, trouble making sentences, vague words like "thing" instead of specifics



### WHEN TO GET HELP:

If your child regularly struggles with understanding or speaking, see a speech-language pathologist. Early help makes a huge impact.

## 3. Dyscalculia

**What it is:** Dyscalculia messes with math, making number sense, calculations, and math concepts feel impossible.

### SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

- Can't grasp numbers or what they mean
- Struggles with basic math facts ( $2+2=...$ ?)
- Always making calculation mistakes
- Fractions, decimals, and percentages = pure confusion
- Trouble telling time or counting money



### WHEN TO GET HELP:

If math is a constant struggle even with extra help, consider an evaluation with a learning specialist.

## 4. Dyslexia

**What it is:** Dyslexia makes reading a struggle, affecting word recognition, spelling, and decoding words.

## SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

- Slow, choppy reading
- Struggles to sound out words
- Skips words or reads them wrong
- Can understand stories when read to but not when reading alone
- Spelling struggles, even with simple words
- Trouble with rhyming and breaking words into sounds
- Family history of reading challenges



## WHEN TO GET HELP:

If reading is a constant battle, see a reading specialist or educational psychologist. The right support can change everything.

## Trust Your Gut

**You know your kid better than anyone. If something feels off, don't wait—talk to a pro. The sooner you get help, the better their chances of thriving.**

