

# Delays & Disorders Explained – Literacy –



## A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS

### WHAT IS LITERACY?

Literacy is the ability to read, write, spell and comprehend written language. It plays a crucial role in our daily lives with the precursors of literacy being sound awareness, rhyming and sound blending. For parents, understanding literacy development in children is essential for their educational journey and academic success.

### WHAT ARE THE COMMON SIGNS?

Early literacy development includes:

- An interest in books and reading.
- Recognizing and naming letters.
- Enjoying storytelling.
- Oral language comprehension.
- Being aware of and able to manipulate the sounds of language.

Signs of literacy difficulties may include:

- Struggling to sound out unfamiliar words.
- Being hesitant to engage with books and reading.
- Difficulty spelling or sounding out words to write them.
- Difficulty recognizing letters or words.

As children progress, they should be able to sound out words, understand the meaning of what they read, and express themselves in writing. However, some children may face challenges in their literacy journey.

Early intervention is essential when children experience literacy difficulties. **Speech-Language Pathologists** can assess all areas of literacy and identify more severe literacy delays such as Dyslexia.

### WHAT DOES THERAPY FOR LITERACY INVOLVE?

Solution therapies often involve literacy interventions that target specific areas of difficulty.

These may include:

- Phonics instruction to improve reading accuracy.
- Comprehension strategies to enhance understanding.
- Writing exercises to boost written expression skills.
- Lessons to address sound blending and the mechanics of spelling.

### WHAT CAN BE PRACTICED AT HOME?

Being **patient** and **supportive** is crucial, as literacy development can vary among children.

Parents play a vital role in nurturing literacy skills and creating a literacy-rich environment by:

- Providing access to books.
- Reading together regularly.
- Encouraging writing activities.

*Remember that literacy is a lifelong skill, and every child progresses at their own pace. Early identification of literacy challenges and appropriate interventions can help children build strong literacy skills, which are essential for success in education and beyond. Parents should actively engage in their child's literacy journey and seek assistance if they have concerns about their literacy development.*

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