

FORMAL SCREENING and ASSESSMENT

We have research evidence that tells us exactly what we need to screen and assess to know if a student will be dyslexic or have difficulties with literacy. Schools should, therefore, implement a Response to Intervention model integrating screening, assessment & intervention within a multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement & to reduce behavioural problems.

When to Start Screening?

Continuous assessment will naturally commence as a matter of good classroom practice. More focused, individual or small group assessment and intervention should begin at the foundation level and should be monitored continuously throughout the student's school years. By identifying specific areas for development schools can offer appropriate remediation which will motivate the student to learn and allow for continued success.

Screening and assessment in School- We can use screening and assessment tools in school to identify class and individual needs, plan a program of intervention and monitor progress

WHAT SHOULD WE SCREEN FOR A POSSIBLE READING DISORDER/DYSLEXIA:

Can we predict which children will experience reading difficulties through early screening? YES

Several studies have shown a consistent set of predictors of reading difficulties, including phonological awareness (PA), letter and print knowledge (PK), and rapid naming (Muter, Hulme, Snowling, & Taylor, [1998](#); Torgesen, Wagner, Rashotte, Burgess, & Hecht, [1997](#); Wagner et al., [1997](#)). However, it was less certain whether these measures accurately predict which children will show later reading difficulties.

It was once thought that dyslexia could be identified by one deficit: Phonological Processing. This is attributable for many people dismissing its existence. Pennington and colleagues argued that **dyslexia, in line with other developmental disorders, occurs as a result of a combination of deficits in multiple areas** (Pennington, 2006; Pennington et al., 2012).

The following is research to test the multi-deficit theory and ascertain whether it is possible to use these to predict reading difficulties: