



# STRUGGLING WITH READING?

HERE IS WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR



## POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1 Every child learns and grows at different rates.
- 2 There are no hard and fast rules for rates of development.
- 3 Talk to your child's teacher and seek help if you are concerned.

## SIGNS TO NOTICE

### 2 - 5 YEARS OLD

- Speech development issues
  - Not meeting developmental milestones
  - Mispronouncing words
  - Struggling to find the right word
  - Saying the wrong word
  - Is often not understood by strangers
- Trouble learning nursery rhymes
- Telling stories that might not make sense
- Difficulty following multi-step instructions

**BY REBECCA BUSH, M.A., M.ED.**  
READING SPECIALIST AND DYSLLEXIA THERAPIST  
[WWW.LEADCHANGES.COM](http://WWW.LEADCHANGES.COM)





Children learn to read at different rates and your school expectations may be beyond what is developmentally expected. This FOCUS parent fact sheet will help you identify when to seek help.

## 5 - 7 YEARS OLD

- Trouble remembering new words
- Pronunciation issues
- Difficulty learning letter names
- Difficulty remembering the sounds letters make
- Confusing letters that look/sound similar
- Guessing when reading
- Over-relying on pictures when reading
- Replacing words when reading
- Struggling with spelling
- Difficulty breaking apart and putting together sounds in words

## 8 - 10 YEARS OLD

- Avoiding reading or becoming anxious
- Confusing, skipping, or replacing words when reading
- Issues with spelling
- Spelling the same word multiple ways in the same writing piece
- Difficulty reading new words and trouble remembering words already read
- Difficulty understanding what was read
- Making the same mistakes repeatedly

## 11 - 13 YEARS OLD

- Reading at a slower than expected rate
- Continuing to misread words on the page
- Reading in a choppy manner
- Continuing to find it difficult to find the right word
- Struggling with reading comprehension
- Continuing to struggle with spelling
- Avoiding reading and writing whenever possible
- Writing is disorganized and can be difficult to understand
- Working harder than classmates for the same results

## 14 - 18 YEARS OLD

- Reading aloud continues to have errors and be choppy
- Struggling to remember common abbreviations
- Having difficulty understanding idioms and puns
- Reading and writing take longer than expected
- Finding it easier to understand what is read to them than what they have read themselves







## HOW YOU CAN HELP A STRUGGLING READER

### TALK TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

- Work with your teachers to understand what they are doing
- Ask specific questions; be respectful and open
- Advocate for your child

### HELP AT HOME

- Read with and to your child
- Be a good reading model
- Support them emotionally
- Be their advocate and cheerleader
- Build cognitive skills without reading

### PLAY WITH LANGUAGE

- Sing songs and learn nursery rhymes
- Stretch and shorten the sounds in words
- Make up silly rhymes and alliterations

### BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Be a model and have conversations
- Learn new words
- Make connections between words

### SUPPORT COMPREHENSION

- Build background knowledge and make connections
- Ask questions
- Visualize
- Look for clues
- Identify what's important

It takes a lot of easy  
reading to make  
reading easy.

-Priscilla Vail

Author, educator, researcher

### FIND EXTERNAL HELP IF NEEDED

- Don't wait until they fail to get help
- Find a qualified professional
- Be an informed consumer
- Join a support group like FOCUS





FOCUS helps parents better support their children with learning differences like dyslexia and ADHD.

We host monthly gatherings where parents can connect, learn, and share their personal journey of helping their children find strengths, build resilience, and achieve their potential.



## We Are Here to Help

FOCUS is a trusted source of advice and a welcoming community of parents and professionals who share the goal of helping to improve the academic and social lives of the estimated 15 - 20% of Hong Kong children and adolescents with mainstream learning differences.



For me FOCUS is a place where I feel I am not alone, it's a place to share and learn, but with people who understand and have similar challenges.

