



The 9 Main Causes of Reading Difficulty

Tick the symptoms that you have seen and then look to see what might be causing them, by checking which columns have the most ticks. **For more information on each cause visit www.dm-ed.com.**

Symptoms	Cause of difficulty:								
	Optilexia	Eye tracking	Contrast sensitivity	Stress spirals	Short term memory	Auditory processing	Attention deficit	Fluency block	No little voice
Visually gifted, enjoys building stuff, tends to see patterns	o								
Guesses short words, but sometimes reads long words fluently	o								
Reads a word on one page but not the next	o								
Substitutes words with similar words with the same first letter	o								
Very poor spelling in free writing, but better in tests	o								
Reads fast but comprehension below expectation	o								
Flips b/d, on/no, of/for, was/saw	o								
Great difficulty with unfamiliar words like placenames	o					o			
Skips words or lines of text		o							
Accelerates through punctuation		o							
Gazes around the room and fidgeting		o					o		
Small text harder to read than large print		o							
Reads worse when tired		o							
Poor accuracy with word endings		o							
Overwhelmed by a page of text		o							
Rubs eyes and complaining of being tired		o	o						
Complains about the text moving on the page			o						
Sees distortions of the text			o						
Feels nausea looking at black on bright white			o						
Marked improvement when tinted acetate placed over the page			o						
Can start a session successfully, but engagement deteriorates				o					
Generally anxious about getting things right				o					
Tantrums or refusal to continue mid-session				o					
Can decode short words, but struggles with long words					o				
Struggles to follow the meaning of the sentence					o				
Difficulty following multiple verbal instructions					o	o			
Difficulty with all phonics						o			
Often says "what?" after verbal instructions						o			
Difficulty hearing instructions with background noise						o			
History of speech delays						o			
Difficulty paying attention to tasks		o					o		
Can decode words accurately, but never reads fluently								o	
Reads accurately but with poor comprehension									o