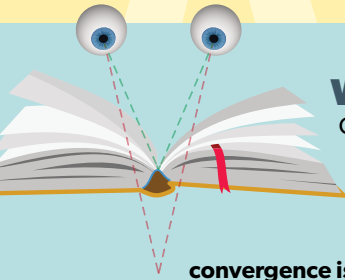




Do vision problems cause dyslexia?

No. Although vision is fundamental for reading, there is no current evidence that suggests visual problems cause dyslexia. Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.²



What about convergence issues?

Convergence insufficiency, a reduced ability to turn the eyes towards each other, is uncommon in children. Incidences typically peak in high school or college-aged individuals, or early middle-aged individuals.³ **According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, treatment for convergence issues will not improve decoding or comprehension.¹**

Dyslexia and learning disabilities are complex problems without simple solutions and there is no evidence to suggest that visual interventions remediate them. **However, through early detection and language-based individualized instruction that is systematic, explicit, and cumulative, children can develop appropriate word reading skills.**



¹American Academy of Ophthalmology (2009). Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia and Vision. San Francisco, CA: Author.

²International Dyslexia Association (2002). Definition consensus project. Retrieved from <https://dyslexiaida.org/definition-consensus-project/>

³Mazow M. The Convergence Insufficiency Syndrome. J Pediatr Ophthalmol Strabismus. 1971; 8: 243-244. doi: 10.3928/0191-3913-19711101-07