

The adverse effects of Dyslexia can be prevented by:

- Early diagnosis
- Special remediation using multi-sensory techniques.

Dealing with Dyslexia: The good news is that with appropriate education, understanding and time, many dyslexics learn to read, write, develop special abilities and talents. The first step, however, is helping a dyslexic with understanding and emotional support. A new study published in the journal -- *Neurology* (2003; 61:212-219) finds that just 3 weeks of reading instruction can help improve brain function in dyslexic children.

Some of the learning strategies that can be adopted for a dyslexic child in a regular classroom, also benefit the non-dyslexic learner. It does not demand extra resources or time from the teacher or the parent.

THE CALOREX FOUNDATION: Manjula Pooja Shroff, an eminent educationist and social worker is the founder of the Calorex Group of companies and the Managing Trustee of Calorex Foundation, Ahmedabad. The foundation is a chair of the Delhi Public School (DPS) and Shroff also is Founding Chairperson of DPS, Ahmedabad and DPS-Prerna, an institute for children having Learning Difficulties (Dyslexics).

Says Shroff, "Dyslexia is more prevalent among boys than among girls and is roughly in the ratio of 4:1. It is not a sign of poor intelligence nor is it the result of laziness. Dyslexia is mainly a reading and writing problem not an eye problem and cannot be cured with pills or diets".

Explaining how parents must deal with the problem, Shroff says, "the child must be examined by a neurological surgeon and by a certified psychiatrist who will put the child through a battery of tests to confirm the diagnosis. Once the problem is identified as dyslexia, the solution is entirely in-house. Because there are so many children who are affected, it is advisable and feasible that teachers at the school level tackle the child. No extra resources are needed. The teachers must have a psychology background and a 10-day training is all it takes to equip them. Also the curriculum for such children must be more flexible. The CBSE has taken the first steps in this direction by providing affected children with extra time to complete a course/ terms and also by allowing them to drop certain subjects altogether... it has to be a coordinated effort both by parents and teachers so that those children are able to rise above their handicap and rehabilitate themselves in the mainstream".