

## What Every Parent Should Know About Dyslexia

The following information was adapted from The International Dyslexia Association (IDA). IDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, scientific, and educational organization dedicated to the study and treatment of dyslexia. IDA has been serving individuals with dyslexia, their families, and professionals in the field for more than 50 years.

### Let's meet Adam, a typical child with dyslexia.



*Adam has trouble in school—with reading, spelling, and occasionally math. Sometimes he has trouble saying what he means and understanding what his parents and friends say to him.*

*Before he started school, he was a very happy child. He was good in sports and had many friends. However, it all changed when he started first grade. He learned quickly to hate school, and often said he had a stomachache.*

*He didn't learn to read as fast or as well as his classmates. When his teacher called on him, he couldn't get the words out—even when he knew the right answer. The teacher got impatient, and accused him of not trying. He began to feel frustrated and anxious. Because he was afraid of losing his friends, Adam became the class clown. It was a lot better to make friends laugh with you than to have them laugh at you.*

*Adam's teacher said he was a problem, but Adam was not a problem child; he is a child with a problem. Too often, we think that people like Adam are lazy, uncaring, and maybe even dumb. Our misunderstanding makes these people lose confidence in themselves and in their abilities.*

