



# Growing readers!

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## 5 Things Your Grade-Schooler with Dyslexia Can Say to Self-Advocate

Self-advocacy is an important skill for even young kids with dyslexia to develop. But sometimes it's hard for grade-schoolers to know what to say. You can help your child by rehearsing common situations she may face.

### 1: "I need help with directions."

**The situation:** The teacher doesn't say all of the directions out loud, and your child is having a hard time making sense of the written ones.

**Your child can go up to the teacher and say:** "Can I talk to you about what we should be doing? I need to talk through the directions."

**Your child can later say to you or the IEP team:** "I can do the assignments once I understand the directions. It's hard when they're all in writing, though."

### 2: "It's part of my learning plan."

**The situation:** A substitute teacher doesn't realize your child listens to audiobooks during reading time. The substitute tells your child to leave the listening station and sit somewhere else to do the reading.

**Your child can go up to the substitute and say:** "Using audiobooks is part of my learning plan. I have dyslexia and audiobooks makes it easier for me to follow along."

**Your child can talk to the regular teacher later and say:** "The substitute didn't know that I go to the listening station for reading. I'm worried it will happen again. Can you help?"

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## 5 Things Your Grade-Schooler with Dyslexia Can Say to Self-Advocate *(continued)*

### 3: “Can you help me with a problem?”

**The situation:** A classmate asks your child, “Why do you always leave the room during reading class?”

**Your child can say to the teacher after class** “Kids are asking why I leave for reading class. I don’t know what to say to them. Can you help me?”

### 4: “I don’t want to stand out.”

**The situation:** Your child is upset that other kids are reading chapter books and she’s reading “baby books.”

**Your child can say to the teacher after class:** “I don’t want to stand out from my classmates. Can you help me find books I can read that don’t seem so babyish? I like learning about dinosaurs. Are there books about dinosaurs I could read?”

### 5: “I need help staying on track.”

**The situation:** Your child can’t find the right place in the text during read-aloud time.

**Your child can raise her hand and say:** “I’m sorry, I lost my place. Which page and paragraph are we on?”

**Your child can say to you or the IEP team:** “I need a way to keep my place during read-aloud time. I need help staying on track.”



This special edition of Growing Readers was created by Understood, a free online resource for parents of children with learning and attention issues.

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