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Backward letter writing does not equal dyslexia:

Every year I am reminded of the common misconception that confusing certain letters when reading or writing letters backward are a sign of dyslexia. With that in mind, I wanted my first newsletter to cite information from the websites listed below that help to clarify the issue. Please share with parents as this issue arises.

- Word identification and spelling problems are usually related to difficulty associating sounds in words to letters or letter patterns.
- There is no evidence to indicate that children with reading or writing disabilities see letters and words backward.
- If a child's reading level is consistent with a grade level when reversals are common in the general population, then they are more likely to show letter formation errors at that level as well. The errors are not caused by a vision problem.
- Prevention of letter reversals is preferable to remediation of errors. Motor memory is a real thing so it is important that students don't get a lot of practice writing letters

incorrectly. In her article cited below, Scanlon-Dise emphasizes the importance of students learning the correct stroke sequence and direction.

- Effortless handwriting allows the student to put more of their mental effort into focusing on the content and organization of their written work.
- For more information, including recommended instructional strategies, please refer to the websites listed below.

References

"Letter Reversals: Worry or Not a Worry?" *Icandoithandwritingcom Blog*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2016.

"The Importance of Teaching Handwriting." *Reading Rockets*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Aug. 2016.

"Why Students Reverse Letters - Make Take & Teach." *Make Take Teach*. N.p., 2012. Web. 11 Aug. 2016.