

Dear Jessinia,

I am so glad I got to spend time with you during your evaluation.

I learned many wonderful things about you. You have a strong mind for understanding words and ideas. You are a good thinker, and you notice patterns and solve problems well. You did well on timed tests. These are all special strengths that will help you as you learn and grow.

I also learned that some parts of reading take more effort for you. Reading new words can feel hard. You have trouble with decoding which is fancy talk for sounding out unknown words. Reading smoothly can take extra work. Spelling can be tricky too, especially when words do not follow easy patterns. Because of this, reading may sometimes feel frustrating or tiring.

This is called dyslexia. Dyslexia means your brain learns reading in its own way. It means some parts of reading and spelling need more practice, more support, and teaching that fits how you learn best.

The good news is that you already have many strengths to help you. Your strong listening, thinking, and vocabulary are important gifts. These strengths will help you as you keep learning. You need a special type of reading instruction called structured literacy. This type of instruction will provide your brain with the feedback that it needs to be successful.

I hope you remember this: some things come easily to you, and some things take more effort. That is true for everyone.

With care,
Jeanne Rutgers