



Jerry G. Thursby, Marie C. Thursby

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Developmental dyslexia is a highly heritable disorder with a prevalence of at least 5% in school-aged children. Linkage studies have identified numerous loci throughout the genome that are likely to harbour candidate dyslexia susceptibility genes. Association studies and the refinement of chromosomal translocation break points in individuals with dyslexia have resulted in the discovery of candidate genes at some of these loci. A key function of many of these genes is their involvement in neuronal migration. This complements anatomical abnormalities discovered in dyslexic brains, such as ectopias, that may be the result of irregular neuronal migration.