

Special Educational Needs



Dyslexia

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning difference: a combination of strengths and weaknesses that affect the learning process. This means that children who have dyslexia learn in ways that are different from other children.

Having dyslexia can mean that certain aspects of learning may be more difficult than others. However it does not mean they will have difficulties in all areas of learning...some things they will find easy!

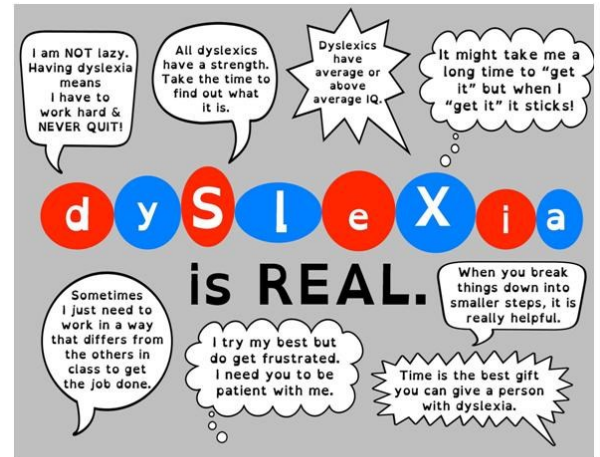
Important things to know about dyslexia

- Children with dyslexia often have strengths in creative areas and reasoning.
- Dyslexia is passed through families.
- 1 in 10 people have dyslexia.
- The dyslexia brain processes written and spoken information differently.
- Sometimes the information is forgotten, jumbled up or bits are missing.
- Dyslexia affects more than reading and writing. It also causes difficulty with organisation, maths and memory.



Signs of dyslexia

- Difficulties with reading
- Difficulties with writing
- Difficulties with maths and telling the time
- Finds it tricky to hear certain sounds in words and difficulties with spelling
- Difficulties with handwriting
- Difficulties with Speech and language
- Finds it hard to remember instructions
- Struggles with organisation (remembering equipment for school)
- Finds it tricky to get ideas down on paper
- Finds processing information quickly difficult



Design by Cheri Grimmet

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It is important to remember that most children will show difficulties like this but will quickly develop their abilities. For many children with dyslexia, the difficulties may be more severe and persistent.

What people with dyslexia are good at...

- Imagining how things work together and how they will end up.
- Thinking outside the box.
- Being able to imagine a vision of the future. Successful entrepreneurs with dyslexia: Steve Jobs (creator of Apple), Richard Branson (entrepreneur).
- Good spatial awareness: famous sports personalities with dyslexia: Lewis Hamilton, Muhammed Ali, Sir Steve Redgrave.
- Creative ideas: famous actors with dyslexia: Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Jennifer Aniston

What works best for dyslexia?

- Use encouragement and praise.
- Use multi-sensory learning, hear it, see it, say it, write it.
- Understand what helps each child: know their difficulties, work at their own pace and find useful strategies.
- Understand the structure of language: link pictures to sounds and words, learn spelling rules, know syllables, prefixes and suffixes, rhyming and blending.

Helpful strategies...

- **Multi-sensory learning:** learning through **seeing** - watching films, reading books, looking at maps, information charts or computer programmes.
Listening—listening to stories, songs and talking about your learning.
Doing— hands-on activities, making, building or through movement.
- Practise learning words by sight.
- Using mnemonic strategies helps to spell difficult words.
- Phonic apps and games.
- Working in quieter spaces.
- Understanding that they can succeed using different approaches.
- Support children with organising themselves and finding ways to remember things, for example, rhymes and visual clues.

We all learn in different ways.

Although having dyslexia may mean that there are some things which children find difficult or challenging, it is also important to remember that we all have things that we are good at and these are called our strengths.

Believe in your ability to succeed.

Always aim to do your best.

Ask for help when you need it.

Trust your strengths and learning styles.

Do the things you love.



At home you can...

- Listen to audio books to develop a love of reading.
- Help develop organisation strategies such as set routines, pack school bags the night before, colour code their timetable so their lessons can be seen at a glance.
- Don't compare their school work with that of siblings.
- Provide constant praise and support to build self-esteem.

Useful websites...

<http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dyslexia/>

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If you have any concerns about your child please speak to Mrs Deakin, our school Inclusion Manager or a member of our Inclusion Team.