

dyslexia

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that can affect reading, writing and spelling. People with dyslexia often have good skills in other areas, such as creativity and problem solving skills.

A person with dyslexia may:

- Read and write very slowly
- Confuse the order of letters in words
- Have poor or inconsistent spelling
- Find it hard to carry out a sequence of directions
- Put letters the wrong way round (b instead of d)
- Be reliant on finger counting
- Struggle with planning and organisation
- Difficulty remembering numbers
- Leave sentences or words incomplete
- Have difficulty putting thoughts into words
- Have issues with handwriting
- Struggle gripping a pen or pencil

Top Tips

- ✓ Print hand outs on pastel- coloured paper instead of white
- ✓ Use fonts such as Arial, Verdana, Tahoma, TW Cen, Comic Sans; a minimum font size of 12/14
- ✓ Double line spacing and a line between paragraphs makes text easier to read
- ✓ Put heading or important points in bold or highlight
- ✓ Present written information as concisely as possible using bullet points and images
- ✓ 'Chunked' numbers are easier to copy & remember. For example, write 752864 as 75 28 64
- ✓ Ensure students are in clear view of you and the board
- ✓ Give 'the big picture' at the beginning of a lesson
- ✓ Give no more than 3 pieces of information or instructions at a time and repeat
- ✓ Check understanding by asking students to repeat back instructions
- ✓ Use 'signalling' language to clarify instructions. Eg, first, secondly, finally
- ✓ Have key vocabulary visible on the board or printed
- ✓ Use white board as little as possible or have key information on hand outs
- ✓ Encourage different ways of recording information. Eg, mind maps, bullet points etc.
- ✓ Provide writing frames
- ✓ Allow time to process information
- ✓ Focus on content when marking. Pick up no more than 5 spelling mistakes per page

Useful Websites

<http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk>

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/educator>