

SEN at Sandon: All you need to know about Dyslexia



WHAT IS DYSLLEXIA?

Some children find the process of learning to read, write and spell particularly hard. Such children may have underlying problems that affect their ability to learn these skills. This is called “dyslexia”, which means “difficulty with words”. It is sometimes referred to, particularly by professionals, as a “specific learning difficulty” or “SpLD”.

Lots of people have dyslexia - 1 in 10 people - and it can be quite mild or quite severe. There are lots of things that can help children with dyslexia do well in education, enjoy their hobbies and get a good job. Dyslexia should not hold anyone back from doing whatever they want to do.

There can be *positive* things about dyslexia which might include:

- strong visualisation skills (good for art, science, crafts, engineering)
- strong problem-solving skills
- strong interpersonal skills.

Things that can be hard for children with dyslexia:

- poor memory, organisation and sequencing problems (putting things in order or following patterns)
- difficulties with reading, writing and sometimes maths
- being organised
- extra effort is needed to do some things which is very tiring.

PARENT TIPS

Be encouraging You have a tremendous influence on your child’s attitude to learning. Remind him/her that everyone is good at something and even though they find some things difficult, they have other strengths.

Be understanding Remember that your child will be working harder than his/her classmates because of the processing difficulties associated with short term memory. This means s/he may come home exhausted, frustrated and possibly angry with him/herself and others. Your role is to provide as much praise as possible for what s/he has done well and to help him/her to stay organised.

Be patient Avoid failure at home, which should be a reassuring and supportive place

Allow time to relax - your child will be tired after having to keep up with peers all day.

Tackle homework in short bursts.

Create a clutter-free homework area at home, a particular room or space in the house which might aid focus and concentration.

Remind your child that many **famous people** are dyslexic.

www.dyslexiaonline.com/basics/famous_dyslexics.html

HOMEWORK / REVISION TIPS

- Record information e.g. mind maps, spider diagrams, bullet points.
- Use writing frames to help organise and get thoughts down on paper e.g. Story humps, mind maps, tables, linear plans.
- Provide coloured reading rulers for a child who finds words “jump around.”
- Encourage the use of highlighters to pin point key information in text.
- Create a ‘checklist’ of what to look out for. E.g. spelling errors, commas, full stops, capital letters, and apostrophes.

HOW CAN MY CHILD BE HELPED IN SCHOOL?

- Learning cursive script helps with hand writing and spelling.
- Use multi-sensory methods to reinforce letter writing e.g. interactive whiteboard/ ipads
- Teaching terms such as vowels, consonants, syllables, suffixes, prefixes can aid learning.
- Mnemonics can aid memory for spelling tricky words
- Encourage spelling out loud using letter names and always allow time for repetition/over-learning.
- Touch typing skills/ rubber pen grips can help those with hand writing difficulties.

ICT TO SUPPORT CHILD’S LEARNING

Find out more about Nessy
<https://www.nessy.com/uk>

Find out more about Wordshark
www.wordshark.co.uk