

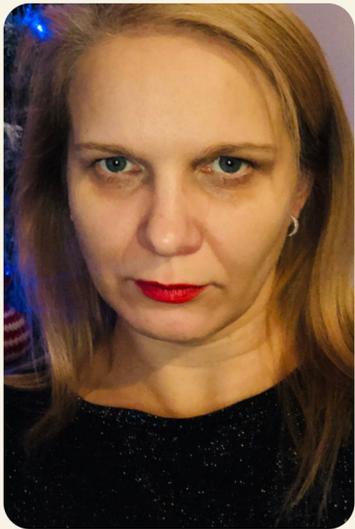


Special Edition SEND Newsletter

Dyslexia Awareness Month



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People with dyslexia often have good skills in other areas, such as creative thinking and problem-solving.



Because dyslexia affects an estimated 10% of the UK population, it's very important to fully understand what it is. This is especially the case for schools, where reading and writing are essential parts of everyday learning. Focussing on Dyslexia Awareness Week in school is a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about how dyslexia can affect people in school and outside of school.

What is Dyslexia?

When commemorating Dyslexia Awareness Week, it's essential to discuss what dyslexia is.

Dyslexia is a very common difficulty that some people face when reading text or words. Because intelligence is not impacted, it is not described as a learning disability but as a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD). The main disruption that dyslexia causes is difficulty with phonological awareness, which is our ability to understand sounds and letters (phonemes).

Each person with dyslexia is different. For some people, it may just slow them down when reading and writing; for others, dyslexia can cause more serious visual interruptions when reading, where words and letters appear blurred.

- A person with dyslexia might:
- read and write very slowly;
- have poor or inconsistent spelling;
- confuse the order of letters in words;
- put letters the wrong way round (such as writing "b" instead of "d");
- find it hard to carry out a sequence of directions;
- struggle with planning and organisation;
- understand information when told verbally, but have difficulty with information that's written down.



Always be patient with those who struggle to read and always encourage them. Whilst it may not always be obvious, learning to read or practising reading can be a very stressful process for dyslexic people. So, bear this in mind and offer to help wherever you can!



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Strategies to support children with dyslexia

- Multi-sensory learning- encourage children to read and spell aloud, make letter shapes by 'sky writing,' use bigger letters and write spellings with different colours, use mnemonics to help with difficult spellings
- Give them very short instructions rather than too many instructions at once
- Use coloured paper/ books instead of white backgrounds as this can sometimes make it difficult to read
- Paired reading where they read with a supportive adult. This helps pupils experience reading fluency.
- Listening to audio books as an alternative to reading
- Typing on a computer or tablet instead of writing
- Use apps that can make learning fun by turning decoding into a game
- Use a reading ruler to help them read in a straight line, which can help keep them focused
- Acknowledge their effort and celebrate hard work, even if there are still mistakes: "I know how difficult that reading homework was. I am so proud of how hard you tried."
- Acknowledge their strengths: "You showed such great sportsmanship and teamwork in the football game the other night, that was a great goal you scored!"



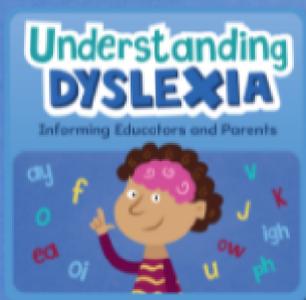
How many people can you name?

"If anyone ever puts you down for having dyslexia, don't believe them. Being dyslexic can actually be a big advantage, and it has certainly helped me."

-Richard Branson, Virgin CEO

Free Understanding Dyslexia!

4th - 24th October



Free Dyslexia Training for Teachers and Parents!

To celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Month we are giving away free licenses to our Understanding Dyslexia course, to help educators and parents learn more about dyslexia.

Use the code: TEACHUD at the checkout. The code is valid for up to 3 free licenses per person. Schools interested in more licenses please contact: schools@nessy.com

Useful links and resources:

www.nessy.com

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

www.dyslexia-assist.org.uk

www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/parents

www.listening-books.org.uk

Books

The Illustrated Guide to Dyslexia and its Amazing People' by Kate Power

'See Dyslexia Differently' short clip from BDA (British Dyslexia Association) which is on YouTube.