



Dyslexia Factsheet

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning difficulty which mainly involves reading, spelling and writing. People who are dyslexic can also have problems with memory and organisation skills.

The degree to which dyslexia causes problems in learning and in everyday life depends on many factors.

Symptoms

- A child with dyslexia will often be very good at some things and will often be better at speaking than writing. They may also be better at practical tasks than book work.
- Dyslexic children often turn letters and numbers round or upside down. They read or write d as b, p as g or 3 as s.
- Sometimes they get letters and a word in the wrong order or read words backwards, like no for on and was for saw.
- Of course many children show these symptoms at an early stage of reading, but if a child is still turning letters around regularly after age 8 he or she might be dyslexic.
- A child may show other signs such as poor concentration, not being able to understand rhyme, or copying from the blackboard with difficulty.
- As a result some children can become anxious or depressed or lacking in self confidence.

How many Dyslexic children are there?

It is thought that in an average class one child might be quite seriously dyslexic with three or four others being mildly or moderately dyslexic.

There seem to be more dyslexic boys than girls, by about 3 or 4 times.

What should I do if I think my child is dyslexic?

A child can show signs of dyslexia as early as 4 years of age.

A definite diagnosis can be made by the age of 7 or 8.

The diagnosis is usually made by a chartered educational psychologist.

Management and treatment

Children with dyslexia usually need some extra help – in a 1 to 1 teaching or a very small group.

The most effective teaching approaches are multi-sensory teaching programmes, which use senses such as sight, sound, touch and movement in a joined-up way.

Educational Support and Placement

Most dyslexic children are taught in mainstream schools.

Some parents prefer a small specialist school with smaller class sizes where the dyslexic child is helped across the whole curriculum in a caring and supportive atmosphere. Teachers with extra qualifications and experience, who understand dyslexia, are often better placed to understand the unique characteristics of each individual child.