



## DYSPRAXIA Simplified

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### What is Dyspraxia?

Dyspraxia is also called developmental coordination disorder.

A dyspraxic child has difficulties with gross and/or fine motor control. Gross motor control means whole body or limb movements. Fine motor control means hand and finger movement, eye movement and the organs of speech.

Each child will have a different pattern of difficulties.

### What is the cause of Dyspraxia?

It is thought that dyspraxia is a lack of a development of the part of the brain which controls movement.

### How many children are dyspraxic?

It is thought that between 2% - 10% of children are dyspraxic.

Boys outnumber girls by about 3 or 4 to 1.

### How do I know if my child is dyspraxic?

Look through the following checklist. Does your child show any of these symptoms much more than other children of his or her age? If so, he or she may be dyspraxic.

## **The Pre-school Child**

- Was late in sitting, crawling, walking and speaking.
- May not be able to run, hop or jump.
- Is poor at dressing.
- Is slow in most actions.
- Has poor pencil grip.
- Cannot do jigsaws or shape-sorting games.
- Has no understanding of in/on/behind/in front of etc.
- Is unable to catch or kick a ball.
- Is often distractible.
- Is often anxious.
- Finds it difficult to keep friends or judge how to behave in company.

## **The School Age Child**

- All the problems of the pre-school child may still be present with little or no improvement.
- Has difficulty with buttons, zips and laces.
- Avoids PE.
- Cannot concentrate well.
- Writes slowly and/or unclearly.
- Has difficulty copying from the blackboard.
- May have difficulty remembering and /or following instructions.
- May have difficulty with maths, spelling and reading.

## **How does dyspraxia affect my child?**

The dyspraxic child may lose confidence, develop low self-esteem and become stressed, anxious or depressed. The child may be frightened of trying for fear of failing and may give up on school work.

Parents and teachers will need to remember that children with special educational needs tend to be bullied more than other children.

## What should I do next if I suspect my child is dyspraxic?

### Pre-school Age Children

Talk to your GP or health visitor. They can then refer you to a paediatrician or child development centre. Following this, you may be advised to see other professionals such as an Occupational Therapist, Psychologist and Speech and Language Therapist.

### School Age Children

Talk to your GP or school nurse and also make contact with the class teacher or special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO).

### Appleford Assessment Service

For over twenty years Appleford has provided high quality education for children with dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD etc. With appropriate treatment many of our young people have gone on to achieve their ambitions and to become happy, fulfilled adults after an unpromising start.

Now there is a new opportunity for parents worried about their children's education and developmental progress.

Appleford can now offer parents a specialist, professional assessment service for the diagnosis of dyslexia, dyscalculia, ADHD, dyspraxia and other coordination difficulties, autism, Asperger's disorder and speech and language disorders including semantic-pragmatic disorder.

All the available research indicates that the earlier a child's difficulties are diagnosed and treated the more optimistic the outcome for the child. So, it is sensible to have your child assessed as early as possible.

#### Contact details

To make an appointment for your child or you to be assessed, please contact:

Appleford School  
Elston Lane  
Shrewton  
SALISBURY  
SP3 4HL

**Tel: 01980 621020**

**Fax: 01980 621366**

**e-mail: [secretary@appleford.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@appleford.wilts.sch.uk)**

**website: [www.applefordschool.org](http://www.applefordschool.org)**