

WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?

Dyslexia is a developmental difficulty associated with reading and spelling difficulties. It is viewed as a difficulty in processing language, sounds or words.

It is seen predominantly as a difficulty in processing verbal or auditory information and in particular:

- Auditory/phonological discrimination: the ability to discriminate the subtleties of sounds to build words
- Auditory/phonological memory: the ability to remember these subtle sound differences required to assign a sound to a written word
- Auditory/phonological processing speed: the rate at which an individual recalls verbal information

Standardised assessments are used to diagnose specific areas of need which provide an insight into the strengths and difficulties being experienced.

The main facts:

1. It can affect up to 10% of the population
2. It is a developmental disorder, which means it is present from birth and is not acquired- it has a biological/genetic basis
3. It is present across all cognitive abilities
4. More boys than girls are affected by dyslexia (roughly 4x more)
5. It is often found co-existing with other developmental difficulties/disorders, such as dyspraxia and/or ADHD
6. It can be missed in individuals who are very capable and bright
7. It is often associated with early speech and/or language difficulties within the early years due to auditory sequential memory difficulties
8. Intervention can help, provided it is specific to the individual profile of strengths and weaknesses – intensive intervention is often required every day to be most effective.
9. It often leads to poor sequencing skills, which impacts upon many areas of everyday functioning, including organisation, written expression, maths problems
10. It can impact as a literacy difficulty across the whole curriculum, leading to difficulty in acquiring skills and knowledge in a range of subject areas, particularly those which have complex vocabulary
11. Dyslexia often leads to an ability to think laterally, an increased sensitivity and an awareness of others

The main difficulties associated with dyslexia:

The difficulties associated with dyslexia are complex. Here are a few things to look out for in order to determine whether a further assessment might be needed to assess for dyslexia. See also the dyslexia checklist with helps to look for age-related difficulties.

Main areas of difficulty:	Things to look for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditory discrimination and the ability to discriminate between the subtleties of sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor articulation in speech 'f' and 'th', 'ch' and 'sh' and other sounds confusion beyond usual age Difficulty in blending sounds to build words, such as c-a-t = cat Confuses basic sounds: e.g. 'u' and 'o' Confuses sounds associated with di- and tri-graphs: or, ur, ir, er, Difficulty in segmenting sounds within words: dog = d-o-g Difficulty in rhyming and hearing a rhyming pattern May appear to lose place in a sentence or forget words May be late talking due to difficulty in putting strings of words together
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditory memory and auditory sequential memory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty in remembering sequences given verbally Difficulty in recitation Appears distant and not to listen Easily forgets instructions or information Forgets basic letters of the alphabet, how to assign a sound to a group of letters: e.g. ay, ai, ee, Struggles with organisation, patterns and sequences: e.g. days of the week, months of the year, learning alphabetical order Sequencing in writing may be affected Difficulty in recalling information and ideas – discrepancy between aural and written work Spelling is disorganised – omissions, reversals, visual differences (said – siad), auditory errors: do/du
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditory processing speed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed speech Very slow to respond to verbal instruction May be inattentive due to time delay in processing information - loses concentration easily Very slow reading and writing performance Word retrieval difficulties



SENDISS
Access-Achieve-Empower