



DYSLEXIA



What is dyslexia?



Dyslexia is a life-long **specific learning difficulty (SpLD)** that affects memory and processing speed which impacts to varying degrees on:

- **literacy development**
- **memory**
- **organisation**
- **sequencing skills**

Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in:

- **phonological awareness**
- **verbal memory**
- **verbal processing speed.**

- **Dyslexia can occur at any level of intellectual development.**
- **It affects up to 10% of the UK population at some level and can affect anyone of any age and background.**
- **It is neurological in origin and can run in families.**

**It is now thought that dyslexia exists on a
continuum,
not a distinct category, and there are
no clear cut-off points.**

Difficulties may be seen in children with dyslexia may include:

- aspects of language
- **motor co-ordination**
- mental calculation
- **concentration**
- personal organisation



but they are not, by themselves, markers of dyslexia.

With the right help and support, **strategies** to overcome difficulties associated with dyslexia can be learned.

Dyslexia needn't be a barrier to achievement!

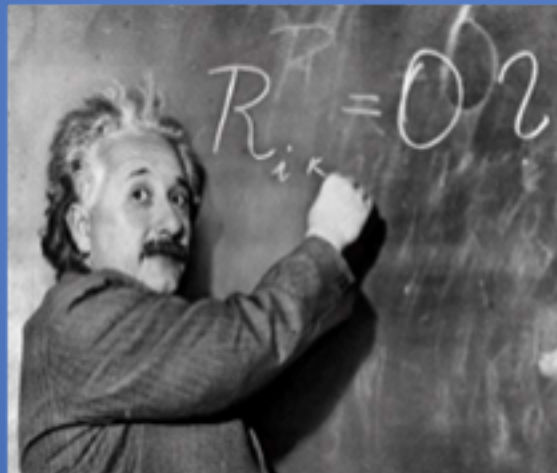
In fact, some adults with dyslexia consider there are positive spin-offs as they may be:

- likely to be used to having to work harder than others. They therefore have developed a strong work ethic and good resilience.
- able to cope with jobs that involve multi-tasking
- very creative
- daydreamers who are adept at 'thinking outside the box.'

The teachers of one student
complained in the past:

‘He was slow to pick up new ideas
and was adrift forever in his foolish
dreams.’

Albert Einstein



‘One of the positive things is that I look at things differently. I simplify things, so I can see things more clearly. That is what’s helped me in business’.

Sir Richard Branson



'I had to train myself to focus my attention.

**I became very visual and learned how to create
mental images in order to comprehend what I read.'**

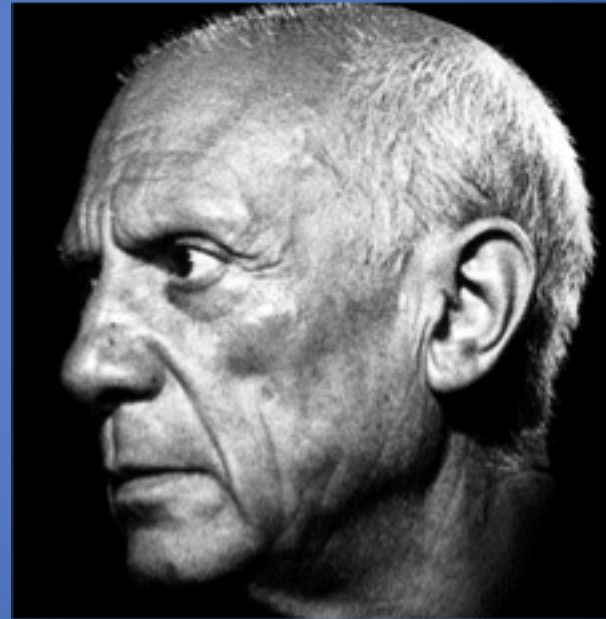
Tom Cruise



CHEFS



ARTISTS



MUSICIANS



ACTORS AND ACTRESSES



PEOPLE WHO EXCEL AT SPORT



ENTREPRENEURS



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

How can you help your child at home
with their reading?

Praise your child often!

The most helpful type of praise lets your child know what they are doing well:

- 'Well done, you looked carefully at the beginning of that word and worked out what the word was.'
- 'Good, when you read a word that didn't make sense in the sentence you paused and thought about it and looked at the word again.'

Children with dyslexia are likely to find their day at school particularly tiring due to the additional effort they need to put in to their learning compared with other children.

A 'little and often' approach to any learning task at home often works best.

What is a reading menu? An example is shown below

Ask your child's teacher for more information

READING MENU

Name of pupil:

Week beginning:

Read to a different person than usual



Read a book from home or a library book

Read for 5 minutes

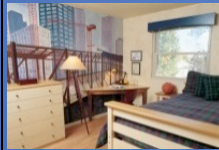


Shared reading with an adult



Read for 10 minutes

Read in a different place indoors or read outside



Ask an adult to read to you



What should I do when my child gets stuck on a word?

- Pause (count to 10 under your breath) to give them a chance to tackle the problem.
- If they then read the word **incorrectly** help them by giving them a prompt, e.g. 'You read . . . Does that make sense?'

. . . if are still stuck and can't read the word,
and it follows the 'phonics rules'

Ask them to **look at the word** to see if there are
any **letter patterns** they can spot to help them ,
then suggest that they sound out the word.

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DREAM . . . WORK . . . ACHIEVE !

WEBSITES

British Dyslexia Association: useful tips on supporting your child at home e.g. when doing homework:

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/about-dyslexia/parents/helping-your-child-at-home.html>

Dyslexia Action: services and support for parents

<http://dyslexiaaction.org.uk/about-dyslexia>

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