

Factsheet for Teachers

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling.

Dyslexia is not linked to intelligence or poor education, it occurs regardless of gender, age, ability, or ethnicity and in all walks of life.

Dyslexia can present daily barriers in education and many children find it hard to thrive. They may feel shame for their differences which might be misinterpreted as lack of ability, laziness or poor behaviour. This can impact upon their confidence and self esteem.

Early identification and intervention help ensure children maintain their self-esteem.

FACTS



This means that dyslexia affects 10% of the population.

OVER
1 Million

school children in the UK have dyslexia. **Many are undiagnosed.**

49%

of all classes have at least one dyslexic child.

3.5X

more likely that a child with dyslexia will be temporarily or permanently excluded from school.

Spotting the Signs

Children can be formally assessed for dyslexia from the age of seven, if you would like more information about the assessment process, please get in touch. There are a selection of Early Indicators that a child may exhibit in the classroom. Some children may have difficulties with early literacy skills – not all of these will be dyslexic. A cluster of the following may be an early indication of a dyslexic child.

Indicators in the Early Years Foundation Stage

- Family history of dyslexia or literacy difficulties
- Early speech and language difficulties
- Muddled words, confusion between directional words
- Difficulty learning nursery rhymes and songs
- Likes listening to stories but shows no interest in letters or words
- Difficulty following instructions, remembering names, colours etc

You can view the full list of early years indicators of dyslexia [here](#)

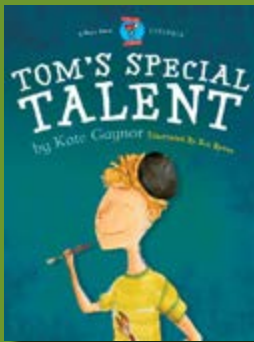
Indicators of Dyslexia in Primary School Children

- Slow progress in reading and writing
- Written work does not match verbal ability
- Inconsistent spelling
- Confuses letters which look similar – for example b and d
- Difficulty blending letters
- Confuses maths symbols eg + and x signs
- Difficulty sequencing alphabet, numbers, days of week

You can view the full list of primary school indicators of dyslexia [here](#)

Books exploring dyslexia

Here are a few book suggestions that cover dyslexia in a range of styles, all encourage children to be mindful of the differences that exist between their friends and classmates and to be aware that all children, regardless of their talents, learn differently. **Please note selected books are not endorsed by the British Dyslexia Association.**



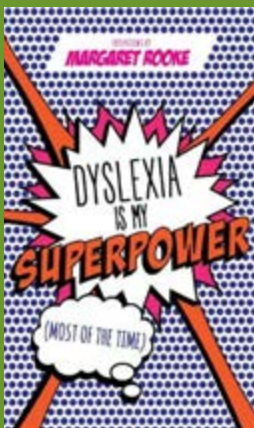
Tom's Special Talent
by Kate Gaynor

It encourages other children to be mindful of the differences that exist between their friends and classmates and to be aware that all children, regardless of their talents, learn differently.



Brilliant Bea
by Shaina Rudolph

An endearing and empowering story that demonstrates that a learning difference like dyslexia doesn't define who you are.



Dyslexia is my Superpower (most of the times)
by Margaret Rooke

More than 100 interviews, children and young adults reveal their personal tips and tactics for honing the creative benefits of dyslexia, enabling them to thrive in school and beyond



Knees: The mixed up world of a boy with dyslexia
by Vanita Oeschlager

Knees shows the ups and downs of life with dyslexia. The book is written as a chapter book so that children at low reading levels can read what seems to be an older child's book.