



**ADVICE
for
PARENTS**



**Helpline
0141-331-2121
www.dyslexiasw.com**

Advice for Parents

Many schools provide very good education but sometimes problems arise and the teacher is unaware of how to solve them. This is particularly true of the Dyslexia problem because Dyslexia is only briefly covered at Teacher Training College and not every school takes advantage of the in-service training, which is available on the subject.

Each child has to be taught many different subjects over a year and teachers ARE very busy and sometimes, rightly or wrongly, a child's problems can be overlooked.

In the first instance, when you feel that your son or daughter is not making progress at school, then an appointment should be made with the class teacher to discuss your concerns. The teachers prefer to see parents after school so that the teaching is not being interrupted and the pupils left, during precious teaching time.

If an appointment is made it should give the teacher time to gather information and examples

of the pupil's work so that all the required information is at hand when the meeting date comes around.

If after that meeting with the class teacher you are still concerned, the next step is to make an appointment with the Head Teacher. Before keeping the appointment, perhaps the following should be considered.

1. Be well prepared. Note down any points to be discussed.
2. Make sure you know exactly what you want to have by the end of the meeting i.e. a meeting with the learning support teacher or an assessment. Take ONE step at a time.
3. Take a friend or relative for moral support. Many people still feel intimidated by the Head Teacher, remembering their own school days and the influence the Head Teacher had.
4. Be positive, calm, firm and confident. This is YOUR child and YOU are paying for his/her education.

5. Take plenty of notes whilst you are in the meeting. Much of what you are told will be new to you, and you may have to refer to it later when a decision has to be made.
6. Don't agree to anything unless you are absolutely sure. Often we feel differently when we are more able to think clearly in the comfort and security of our own home. You may also like to seek further advice before any decision is made.
7. IF anything is agreed put a reasonable time limit by which the action has to have been taken.
8. When you return home, digest your notes, think carefully and seek advice if necessary about what you want now and what was provisionally agreed at the meeting.
9. Put in a letter YOUR UNDERSTANDING of what was discussed and agreed at the meeting and ask for confirmation from the school that they agree.
10. Before leaving the meeting arrange for a follow-up meeting- perhaps one each term would be appropriate, with the understanding

that should ANY problems arise with either the school or yourselves then either party can be contacted at any time.

If after that you are STILL concerned, or the school are refusing to carry out a particular request,(often it is beyond their control to carry out certain requests due to lack of resources or appropriately trained teachers) make an appointment to see the Head Teacher once more. This time make it clear exactly what you have asked for and in what way you feel they are not complying with your wishes. Give the Head Teacher the opportunity to sort it out by a certain date and then advise that if it is not resolved by then and he/she is unable to help further then advise him/her that you have no other option but to take the matter further.

By doing this, you have given the Head Teacher every opportunity to solve the problem and really you have no other option. Your child has only one chance at his/her education and it must NOT be wasted.

It MUST be remembered that working WITH the school is VITAL and most beneficial to the child and bad feeling should be avoided at all cost. Support from both school and parents, is vital for the child and undoubtedly is best for him/her.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 came in to effect on 14th November 2005. The legislation replaces the old term "special educational needs" with the broader term "additional support needs".

Under the new Act, parents will have the right to:

- ask the education authority to assess their child for additional support needs.
- ask for a particular type of assessment for their child, for example medical or psychological assessments.
- request access to mediation services and to dispute resolution service when they disagree with the help being given to their child.

- make a placing request to an independent special school if their child has additional support needs (at present only those with a Record of Needs can do this).
- ask the education authority to establish whether their child requires a Co-ordinated Support Plan (rough equivalent of the Record of Needs).
- ask for an early review of an existing Co-ordinated Support Plan.
- appeal to new independent family-friendly Tribunals on a range of issues concerned with the Co-ordinated Support Plan.

More information can be found on the Enquire Website www.enquire.org.uk and Govan Law Centre has launched a website to help parents, teachers and pupils understand the new legislation. www.additionalneeds.org.uk

The Govan Law Centre has launched a website to help parents, teachers and pupils understand the new legislation:

www.additionalsupportneeds.org.uk

The Centre also offers telephone consultations with a solicitor for parents who are concerned about how the new legislation will affect their children: 0141 445 1955.

Following consultation with our Service users our leaflets are prepared in Comic Sans font size 14 on coloured paper as this is considered to be the most dyslexic friendly format.

Open daily

Monday to Friday

9.30 am till 4.30 pm

Please phone before visiting our office to ensure that someone is available to see you

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this pamphlet, we cannot be held liable for changes that may occur.