



**ADVICE
for
TUTORS
and
CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS**



**Help-Line
0141-331-2121
www.dyslexiasw.com**



WHERE DO I START?

A Tutor can be very important in helping a dyslexic child/adult achieve success but the question often asked is "Where do I Start?"

There is no one programme of work that will bring success to all dyslexic children or adults. Dyslexia Scotwest's Resource Room alone has over 1,000 books etc with information about Dyslexia.

There are countless lists made with the indicators of dyslexia and challenges faced by dyslexics. More and more suppliers are producing programmes, worksheets or software which can be used in many different ways but it is essential to

START WITH THE CHILD/ADULT

Dyslexic learners may often have 'failed' and it is VERY important to start by talking to and listening to your pupil. This

- lets you get to know the pupil as a person and discover his/her interests
- allows the pupil to get to know you
- builds up trust and confidence
- helps you to assess oral ability

Learners need to feel confident to 'have a go' and often a dyslexic's self esteem can be low because of previous failure. When trust is established it is much easier to find out the best way to help and support.



Try to use a range of resources and approaches which will ensure success early on which will motivate the student to learn more and to be more confident in his/her ability to learn.

WHAT MATERIAL WILL I USE?

Whichever programme/software is chosen eg Toe by Toe, Stride Ahead, Wordshark, Numbershark etc if YOU are positive about it then the pupil's confidence is improved there is a far greater chance of success.

Tuition should be multi-sensory involving looking, listening, speaking, touching etc with as much variation as possible but we are all unique and it is good to observe whether the child/adult is predominantly a



VISUAL LEARNER

(learns best by seeing)



AUDITORY LEARNING

(learns best by listening)



KINESTHETIC LEARNER

(learns by doing/feeling)

The following are just a VERY few tips that, of course, can be useful for any type of learner. However, the more you get to know your pupil the more you will work together to find the best individual tips.

VISUAL LEARNERS

- Use pictures and multi-media material
- Stick spelling words anywhere in view
- Look at pictures in a book before reading
- Play games eg 'pairs' to improve memory
- Draw mind maps
- Use different colour eg syllables in words
- Use good visual software programmes
- Have an uncluttered work area

AUDITORY LEARNERS

- Talk about the book to be read or the information to be learned
- Make sure instructions are orally clear

- Get the student to record the information to be learned him/herself
- Use software which has good auditory input.

KINESTHETIC LEARNERS

- Trace letters in sand or in the air
- Use concrete objects which can be handled eg wooden letters, numbers etc
- Memorise facts while moving about







TIPS for NUMBER WORK

Remember the dyslexic has probably experienced 'failure' so the aim should be to make number work **STRESS FREE**. Use multi- sensory methods with concrete



materials and 'over learn' (repeat, repeat and repeat again and again!!!)

- Talk about numbers eg TV channels, dates, house numbers 
- Count eg climbing stairs, skipping, etc
- Handle real coins 
- Discuss time - day/night, early/late
- Sequence days, months, birthdays 
- Use board games, dominoes, dice
- Use maths words eg how many, the same
- Discuss symbols and signs
 - + could be plus, add, more than, etc
 - could be take away, subtract, minus
 - x could be times, product
 - ÷ could be divide, share etc
- It is VERY important for a dyslexic to feel confident using a calculator. 

Good organisation needs to be encouraged as dyslexics often jump to the answer. They need to be taught how to set down 'working'.

TIPS FOR WRITTEN WORK

- use lined paper
- use spell checker
- use word bank
- cloze procedure (handouts with blanks)
- use Co-writer or Texthelp (if available)
- whenever possible give praise for content

TIPS FOR READING

- limit reading demands
- ensure appropriate reading level/material
- paired reading
- prepare a subject word list
- if the child has Meares Irlen Syndrome
use coloured overlays/glasses
- try out computer software eg wordshark
- listen to taped books

Encourage Encourage Encourage
and **HAVE FUN !!!**



CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

The classroom assistant can be

- crucial in helping a pupil achieve success
- of important help to the class teacher

The classroom assistant often knows a pupil far better than most of the other staff in the school because of the close daily contact in a variety of situations. The assistant can

- break down instructions and tasks
- keep a pupil on task
- organise work materials
- read and/or scribe
- note down homework
- help with practical tasks

For a dyslexic this support is **INVALUABLE**.

The classroom assistant can sometimes help the class teacher to prepare individual work material.

In addition the assistant can let the class teacher know

- which tasks are causing difficulty
- where the pupil's strengths lie
- if homework is causing excessive stress
- if there are problems relating to peers

Difficulties with processing information mean that lack of time is often a problem for a dyslexic child. He/she will feel a failure if work is consistently left incomplete.

The individual support of a classroom assistant can allow a pupil to finish a task before moving on.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING



LOOK At words, pictures
Diagrams, colour



LISTEN To yourself talking aloud
To a tape recording of notes



TOUCH By writing, finger tracing
Drawing, doing



FEEL Shapes of letters
Words in your mouth



LINK New information to old



REPEAT By reading again



By listening again



By discussing again



By doing again

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

Dyslexia Scotwest

93 Woodside Place Lane

Glasgow

G3 7RB

Tel 0141-331-2121

e-mail info@dyslexiasw.com

www.dyslexiasw.com

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.

