

Information Sheet for Parents and Carers Dyslexia Outreach Team: Supporting Literacy in Schools

Could my child have dyslexia?

Each child has his/her own profile of strengths and developmental needs. However, there are a variety of indicators that might point to dyslexia:

- Being able to talk about what he/she is learning more easily than reading or writing about it.
- Persistent spelling difficulties despite appropriate efforts.
- Short-term memory problems, and difficulties with sequencing e.g. following/giving instructions, directions etc.
- Appearing to have a poor concentration span, or being forgetful and/or disorganized.
- Difficulty telling the time.

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) has more information:

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/parent/identification-of-dyslexia>

What to do if you think your child might be dyslexic:

- Your first step is to approach your child's school. Speak to your child's class teacher, form tutor or Senco
- Your concerns will be recorded and staff will review appropriate strategies to support your child.
- The school will follow Suffolk's Guidance on the identification and assessment of learners with dyslexia and literacy difficulties. You can find this guidance on our website: <http://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice.page?id=brho3niZiIY>
- You will also find an information for parents about our service on our website.

What you can do to help

- Dyslexic learners usually take longer to develop reading and writing skills, so encourage and celebrate your child's strengths.
- Let them know that you understand their difficulties.
- Dyslexic learners have 'good and bad days', and need patient reassurance
- Dyslexic learners have to work far harder than their peers at school and consequently can get very tired.
- Make learning at home active and fun.

Remember

Dyslexia can be regarded as a learning *difference* (rather than a *difficulty*). Dyslexic learners are often very creative, and have strong oral skills. Many famous and successful people are dyslexic.

You can do this by...

- Working closely with your child's school to find the best way forward
- Reading to younger children regularly and developing positive reading experiences from an early age
- Encouraging your child to develop strategies that support learning e.g. organisation of homework or study and developing computer skills
- Using recording devices, TV, or the computer as learning aids – not just books
- Encouraging your child to write with a practical purpose in mind – shopping lists and messages to family/friends, etc.
- The Dyslexia SpLD Trust has an excellent website to support parents: <http://www.parentchampions.org.uk/about-us/parent-champions-partners/>