

Educational Psychology

Overview Guide

Dyslexia

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning difference that impacts the processing of language, such as word reading and spelling. Common strengths of those with dyslexia are problem solving, creative skills, interactive skills, oral skills and design (BDA, 2010). People with dyslexia often have difficulties with phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed (Rose, 2009). Dyslexia does not impact an individual's intellectual ability. (<https://youtu.be/11r7CFIK2sc>)

Supporting dyslexic students in the classroom

- Where appropriate use a multisensory approach to teaching. This approach uses all the senses so that new information is successfully absorbed and stored.
- Allow students brain breaks to process information and transition into a new task.
- Regularly check that the student is on task and understands what they have to do.
- Encourage the student to use mind maps / brainstorming exercises etc... this will help them to summarise the information into a visual format so that they can then easily access the information when required.
- When starting a new topic provide the student with a list of topic words and encourage them to use these when completing her work.
- Give instructions in multiple formats: i.e., visual and verbal formats (written checklist). Check understanding.
- Ensure additional time to process information is given, organise thoughts and respond to questions both verbally and in written form across the curriculum.
- Ensure the student has support planning a task before beginning and demonstrates a secure understanding of the requirements.
- Use different coloured pens when writing on a Smartboard/flip chart etc. This will help all students to track the writing when they are copying / reading / answering questions etc.
- Progress should also be shared, and success celebrated regularly

Supporting dyslexic students at home

- Ensure the student understands their difference. Focus on the strengths and positives. The book 'Dyslexia Explained' by Mike Jones is a helpful book for children.
- Books for parents and teachers: 'The Dyslexic Advantage' by Eide and Eide, and 'Dyslexia and Mental Health' by Neil Alexander-Passe.
- Dyslexic students are often very tired after school due to focusing on processing language all day. Ensure they are given time to regulate and process the events of the school day.
- Finding books that link to the students interest and paired reading approaches at home will help to encourage enjoyment of reading.