

For more information or free advice and guidance contact:



Phone: 01872 222 911

Helpline: 01872 274 827

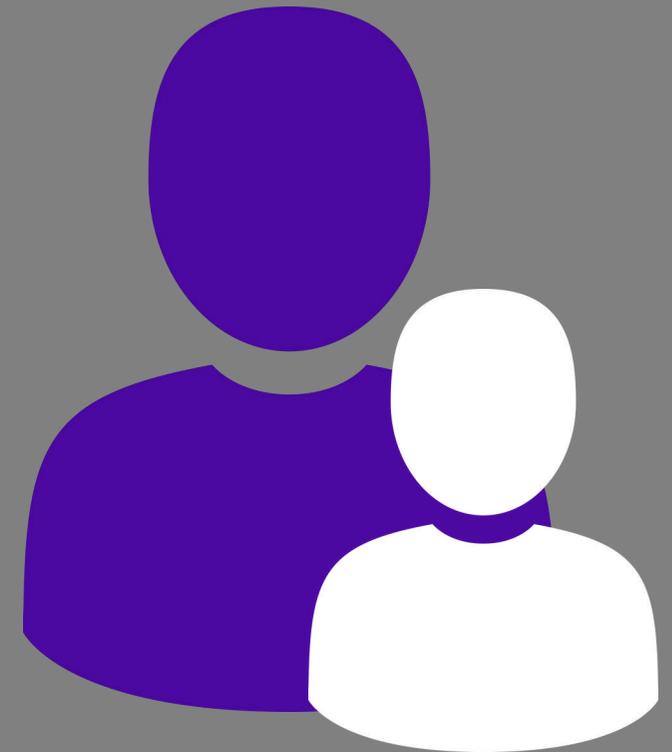
[enquiries@dyslexiacornwall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dyslexiacornwall.org.uk)

[www.dyslexiacornwall.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiacornwall.org.uk)

Facebook: @DyslexiaCornwall

Charity No: 1165690

## Information for Parents



October 2019

# What is Dyslexia?

The aim of this leaflet is to provide useful information and suggestions of what you as a parent can do if you suspect your child is dyslexic.

The word 'dyslexia' comes from the Greek meaning 'difficulty with words' and is a difference in the way the brain processes language.

Dyslexia varies in different people, but can mean **difficulties** with:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Writing
- Organisational skills
- Short-term memory
- Numeracy skills

Dyslexia tends to run in families and is NOT related to intelligence or to a person's background.

However, along with the difficulties, real **strengths** can be identified, including:

- Problem solving skills
- Enhanced creativity
- Strong visual thinking
- Intuitive
- Verbally articulate
- Spatially talented

People with dyslexia do not all have the same way of thinking, but there are common patterns.

Dyslexia is sometimes diagnosed in children soon after they start school.

There is no cure for dyslexia but with the right kind of support, dyslexics can overcome their difficulties and achieve great things.



# Getting Help...

It is estimated that at least 10 - 20% of the population are affected by dyslexia; with 4% being severely affected.

Dyslexia Cornwall receives many calls from anxious parents who are looking for support that will enable their children to reach their full potential at school.

We strongly advise that families work with schools to meet the educational needs of their child.

Talk to your child's teacher who should be able to observe your child and do tests to help understand their difficulties.

If you are still concerned ask them to assess your child under the **Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs**. Once your child is under the school based stages of the code, you should be asked into school for regular reviews to discuss your child's progress, so make sure this happens.

If your child's problems continue to cause you concern ask the school to call in one of the Local Authority's Dyslexia Advisers, who can advise the school on how to support your child.

If things do not improve, request a visit from an Educational Psychologist. They can fully assess your child's level of difficulty. If necessary, you can refer your child direct to the Educational Psychology service at Cornwall Council.

You can also have your child assessed privately by a dyslexia trained teacher with assessor status.



# Top Tips...

Here are just a few useful tips for helping your child.



## Check Hearing and Eyesight

If a child is experiencing any difficulties at school, it is always a good idea to make sure that there are no problems with eyesight or hearing so get these checked if this has not been done recently.

## Identify your child's difficulties

Write a list of your child's difficulties. Include all his/her difficulties both at home and school (for example, speech, clumsiness, poor short memory etc.)

## Discuss your concerns with your child's school

## Read SEND Guide for Parents and Carers

Read the SEND Guide for Parents and Carers to understand how the system works.

Download a copy from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Read our leaflet on the Code of Practice which simplifies things.



## Request a Dyslexia Screening

Request a dyslexia screening which gives an indication or 'likelihood' of a child being dyslexic. It is only a basic test and is a 'snapshot' of a child's performance on the day of the test.

***This is not a diagnosis.***

*Some screening tests can only be used for children aged 7 or over. This should not stop schools identifying and addressing a child's needs before this age.*



## Request a Dyslexia Assessment

For some children a full diagnostic assessment may be required. It involves a series of diagnostic tests to determine whether a child is dyslexic or has other specific learning difficulties. It provides an in-depth report specifying strengths and weaknesses. ***This is a diagnosis.***

## Request a Visual Stress Assessment

Coloured or tinted lenses may help some dyslexic children's ease and speed of reading. Evidence is by no means conclusive but certainly a small percentage of children do benefit. The following opticians can provide this service:

**Noakes Habermehl & Kerr (Callington)**  
**Noakes Habermehl & Kerr (Saltash)**  
**Specsavers (Truro)**  
**Bradleys (Penzance)**

**01579 382345**  
**01752 847477**  
**01872 22 38 18**  
**01736 363339**

Alternatively, coloured overlays and reading rulers can reduce movement and distortion of text, headaches and sore eyes which are common symptoms of visual stress. Overlays and reading rulers can be purchased from <https://www.crossboweducation.com/articles/dyslexia-coloured-overlays-and-visual-stress>

# Tests and Examinations

Pupils do not need an Education and Health Care Plan to be allowed concessions in tests or exams.

## National Curriculum Test

Dyslexics are allowed certain special arrangements in National Curriculum Tests. Schools now have guidelines on what special arrangements they can make. We recommend you discuss this with your child's teacher well before the exams. However, tests are partly set to identify areas of difficulty for children nationally. So it is a test of the level the child is working at under normal circumstances.

Copies of booklets on assessments and reporting arrangements are available from the Standards and Testing Agency <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/standards-and-testing-agency>



## Special Examination Arrangements

Depending on your child's difficulties they may be allowed extra time (up to 25%), a reader, the use of a word processor, or the use of a person to take dictation.

For some concessions a dyslexia trained teacher can now supply supporting evidence on behalf of a candidate with dyslexia and the school can make the decisions.

Check with the school in plenty of time in case an Educational Psychologist needs to do an assessment.

Booklet on examinations regulations available from:

**Joint Council Tel: 0207 638 4132 or <https://www.jcq.org.uk/>**

# Disabled Students Allowance

Dyslexic students in Higher Education, can apply for a Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

Full-time and part-time students, studying at least 50% of a full-time degree course and post-graduate students are now eligible for this allowance. (Also students studying a degree through the Open University).

Anyone claiming DSA must have a dyslexia assessment to diagnose their dyslexia.

The DSA may include equipment (eg.IT hardware and appropriate software), an annual non-medical helper's allowance, (including funding for ICT training, proof-reading) and an annual general allowance for books and resources.

For further information contact GOV.UK by using the following link <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview>

*Note: DSA may be changing and there are proposals to reduce the provision. The government will only fund those whose dyslexia (or other Specific Learning Difficulty) is considered to be more complex.*





# How we can help...



Dyslexia Cornwall can help parents develop strategies to work with schools by offering access to a range of services.

## Information and Advice Services

We offer a FREE confidential information and advice service.

Our information and advice services are carried out by our highly experienced dyslexia advisers.

## Dyslexia Helpline

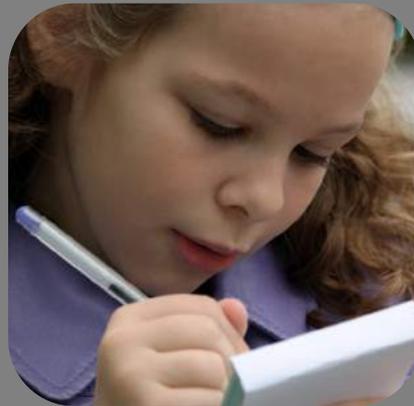
We offer a confidential telephone Helpline service which provides information and advice on dyslexia and related subjects.

Our Helpline is run by volunteers who are experienced and qualified dyslexia advisers.

This is a FREE service.

Our Helpline is sometimes very busy. If you get no reply, please leave a message on the answerphone.

Helpline: **01872 27 48 27**



## Dyslexia Screening

Dyslexia screenings give an indication as to whether you are likely to be dyslexic. **Dyslexia screenings cannot diagnose dyslexia.**

We provide a free signposting service to organisations offering dyslexia screenings. They take up to 60 minutes to complete.

## Dyslexia Assessments

Assessments involve a series of tests to determine whether you are dyslexic or have other specific learning difficulties. **Dyslexia assessments can diagnose dyslexia.**

We provide a free signposting service to organisations offering dyslexia assessments.

The assessments should be carried out by fully qualified assessors registered with the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties (PATOSS) or British Psychological Society.

The assessments can take up to 4 hours to complete.



## Visual Stress Assessment

Visual stress assessments help to identify if coloured lenses or overlays can improve your ease and speed of reading.

We provide a free signposting service to opticians who offer visual stress assessments.



**For a full list of services and charges visit  
[www.dyslexiacornwall.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiacornwall.org.uk)**