

Dyslexia

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a neurological difference that primarily affects Reading and Writing skills. You may notice the following:

- ◆ Difficulty with learning and applying phonics
- ◆ Confuses letter order or letter orientation e.g. d/b when spelling words.
- ◆ Misses out, adds words or jumps lines when reading
- ◆ Difficulty concentrating or following verbal instructions. May appear forgetful or slow to complete tasks.
- ◆ Poorer written work in comparison with oral ability.

A child with dyslexia may also experience problems in other areas such as memory, speech development or processing of spoken words, planning/organisation, following instructions and sequencing.

It is important to remember that not all difficulties in spelling, reading, writing or maths are a sign of dyslexia.

Children with dyslexia will often have a 'spikey' profile meaning that they have strong abilities in some areas alongside their weaknesses in others.

How can we help your child at Millhouse?

We aim to identify children with Literacy difficulties including dyslexia early on. The class teacher will speak to parents directly if we feel your child has difficulties with literacy skills. Parents may also want to highlight their concerns with the class teacher too. We have access to the GL Dyslexia Screening which can identify dyslexic tendencies in pupils (Yr 3-6 only) but please note this is NOT a formal diagnosis. Below is a list of just some of the interventions available at our school:

- ◆ Quality first teaching—all our teachers are skilled at adapting work to suit different pupil's needs.
 - ◆ Dyslexia friendly reading books
- ◆ Black print on white paper can sometimes cause visual stress. Our teachers use colour backgrounds when teaching and we have a selection of colour overlays for reading and books with colour pages for writing.
 - ◆ Word Wasp and Precision teaching
- ◆ Ultimate Guide to Phonological Awareness
- ◆ 'Clicker' (software package where children can produce their written work using an iPad and keyboard)

For more information about any of these interventions, as well as others that we may be able to provide, please speak to your child's class teacher or one of the Inclusion Managers.

How can you support your child at home?

- ◆ Has your child had an up to date hearing and vision test? (Some opticians may also check for visual perception difficulties and suggest the best colour overlays to help your child).
 - ◆ Playing fun memory games
 - ◆ Learning Nursery Rhymes
- ◆ Reading and Spelling apps such as Nessy or Lexia
- ◆ When learning spellings, look for strategies that work best for your child e.g. chunking the word into syllables, mnemonics, drawing pictures or making actions to prompt memory.
- ◆ Shared reading with parent or sibling
 - ◆ Audiobooks
- ◆ Talk to your child's class teacher about producing homework in a different way e.g. typed or in picture form.
- ◆ The British Dyslexia Association has a wealth of information for parents. You will find more information about strategies to help support your child at home under the 'How can I support my child?' section.

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/how-can-i-support-my-child/>

Dyslexia can sometimes have an effect on a child's self esteem and confidence so remember to always be positive and praise your child's successes. Using a 'little and often' approach to teaching or practicing skills with your child is the best approach and may also help reduce any stresses and/or anxieties around learning.

Get in Touch...

If you have any concerns about your child's Literacy or general learning skills, or you would like further information about the interventions and support we can offer, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, or one of the Inclusion Managers - Sophie Jones or Sam Durdle.

Remember...

There are many positives to thinking differently. Many dyslexic people show strengths in areas such as reasoning and in visual and creative fields. There are Hollywood actors, sportsmen and women, inventors and even billionaires with dyslexia!

Tel: 01268 543584

Further Support...

Please find a further list of resources, websites and support groups:

- ◆ <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>
- ◆ <https://www.nessy.com/uk/> - online reading and spelling app for children aged 6+
- ◆ <https://dyslexia-assist.org.uk/for-parents/>
- ◆ <https://www.dyslexiaessex.org.uk/>
- ◆ <http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/>
- ◆ <http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/>
- ◆ Hornet Literacy Primer and Word Wasp
- ◆ <https://www.familiesinfocussessex.org.uk/> - supporting families and young children with additional needs
- ◆ 'Xtraordinary People: Made by Dyslexia' by Kate Griggs

Millhouse
Primary
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"Inspiring Tomorrow's Generation, Today"

A guide for Dyslexia & Specific Learning Difficulties



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