

SEND News – dyslexia special



Welcome back to another week. I hope you and your families are all well.

The SEND team here at Acorn are often asked about dyslexia. It is important to note that regardless of whether a child has a diagnosis of dyslexia or not, the support can be implemented as for any children experiencing difficulty in acquiring literacy skills. Much of what works for dyslexic learners is good support for others and will make a difference. All of our schools have access to reading and spelling assessments which help us to plan and deliver intervention or support as well. The parents of any child receiving structured support should be notified by their school. Please do ask the class teacher or the tutor if you would like more information.

With best wishes, Sue Fulbrook (SEND Director)



What is dyslexia?

Gavin Reid in his book, *Dyslexia* published in 2003 defines dyslexia as below:

“Dyslexia is a processing difference experienced by people of all ages, often characterised by difficulties in literacy, it can affect other cognitive areas such as memory, speed of processing, time management, coordination and directional aspects” (Reid 2003).

Reid also notes that “there may be visual and phonological difficulties and there is usually some discrepancy in performances in different areas of learning” (Reid 2003).

In short, dyslexia consists of:

- Literacy difficulties (reading and spelling)
- Phonological processing difficulties
- Sequencing difficulties
- Working memory difficulties
- Organisation/study skills difficulties
- Strengths in visual, creative and problem-solving activities



Top inclusive strategies for literacy difficulties:



- Give additional thinking time
- Scaffold reading and writing tasks (mindmaps, writing frames, modelling)
- Use highlighters, headings and pictures with text
- Opportunities to discuss orally before writing
- Support memory with lists, charts, cards
- Use alternative ways of recording (typing, speech to text software, snaptyping, scribing, dictation)
- Encourage use of audiobooks to develop vocabulary and comprehension (and enjoyment!)

A few links for ideas for supporting dyslexia/literacy difficulties:

- The British Dyslexia Association - <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>
- Starspell –. They are currently offering their app for free or a small donation - <https://www.fishermarriott.com/Products/Details/StarSpell%203>
- Phonics programme for reading - <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
- Barrington Stoke books – dyslexia friendly - <https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/>
- Audible – access to online audiobooks – some are free to stream – www.audible.co.uk