

Guide to Dyslexia

What Is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia means *difficulty with words*. People who have dyslexia often have a *specific learning difficulty* with reading, writing and spelling. Sometimes, they have difficulty with numbers too. There is likely to be at least one child with dyslexia in each class but the specific problems and the degree of difficulty will vary. There are different ideas about the causes of dyslexia but the reasons appear to lie in the way the brain functions which is slightly different in dyslexic people, who are often creative, artistic and good at problem-solving. Many are high achievers - from Einstein to Keira Knightley.

What do we do in school?

- If we have concerns about a child, we use the Dyslexia Screening Test to identify which areas present the most problems. Parents are given written feedback.
- Teachers use a multi-sensory style of teaching which benefits all learners. Work is differentiated to suit the needs of the children.
- Teaching assistants provide extra support.
- There are specific resources which might be helpful, such as coloured overlays or spelling aids. We can make suggestions for activities to do at home.
- The child could be placed on our **record of need** and an **individual education plan** created for them, with parents' involvement.
- We might seek help from an educational psychologist, dyslexia adviser or other outside agency. You will be involved in the process.

What can parents and families do?

- Be patient. Dyslexic children often take longer to do things.
- Help the child to organise him or herself. Routines are important.
- Help the child find strategies to deal with problems. Older children can successfully manage their dyslexia.
- Homework can present a big problem. Talk to your child's teacher about expectations and ways to help.
- Praise and encouragement are important. Although a child may have problems, there will be plenty of positives too.
- Share your ideas and anxieties with us. We want to work with you.

Other information and Contacts

Judith Carroll is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. Although she is not in school every day, she will be happy to see you by arrangement. She can also give you further information about dyslexia if you would like a greater understanding of the subject.

Parent Partnership Helpline Tel. 01736 751921

Chris Lucas is our parent support adviser, based at Penryn

Junior School Tel 01326 372438

(christine.lucas@penryn-jnr.cornwall.sch.uk)

The Cornwall Dyslexia Association has helpful advice

Tel: 01872 274827 www.cornwalldyslexia.org.uk

Other Useful websites:

- www.bdadyslexia.org.uk
- www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk
- www.beingdyslexic.co.uk
- www.dyslexia.uk.net