

Formal diagnosis

Dyslexia can only be formally identified through a diagnostic assessment carried out by a certified dyslexia assessor, but this is not needed in order for the young person to receive support or for access arrangements (additional time) in formal examinations.

This assessment will be able to tell you if your child is dyslexic or not. *However* if you have already spoken to the school and literacy needs have been identified, provision should have already been put in place by the school. This provision is unlikely to change with a diagnosis of dyslexia, however if additional recommendations are made the school will discuss these with you.

Schools can access dyslexia outreach to support school staff to meet dyslexic needs in an inclusive way. This support is not dependent on a diagnosis.

For more information

The British Dyslexia Association
U.K. national organisation, offering a wide range of information for parents, dyslexic adults and parents.
<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk>

Made by Dyslexia
Great website to see dyslexia as a superhero power
<https://www.madebydyslexia.org>

Barrington Stoke
Barrington Stoke books offer dyslexic readers books which are high interest low reading age to encourage reluctant readers. Also books for parents and resources for schools

<http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk>

PATOSS
Professional association of teachers with qualifications in teaching dyslexics – can provide list of qualified teachers.

<https://www.patoss-dyslexia.org>

The Codpast

The Codpast is a fresh and contemporary resource for students and adults with Dyslexia.
<http://www.thecodpast.org/>



A guide to: Dyslexia Information for Parents and Carers



What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing skills. However, it does not only affect these skills.

Dyslexia is about information processing. Dyslexic people may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact on other areas such as organisational skills.

It is important to remember that there are positives to thinking differently. Many dyslexic people show strengths in areas such as reasoning and in visual and creative fields.

Around 10% of people show signs of dyslexia, which equates to 3 students in every class.

What should I do if I think my child has dyslexia and what support is available?

The first thing you should do if you think your child could be dyslexic and needs more help is talk to their teacher or the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) at the school about your concerns.

To determine how best to support your child in the classroom, the SENCo may choose to provide screening tests or implement checklists to gather further information about your child's areas of strength and weakness. It is important that appropriate support is put in place as soon as a need is identified, rather than waiting for a formal identification.

Enfield schools are trained in identifying and supporting pupils with dyslexia and literacy difficulties; they are needs-led so will support your child without a diagnosis. Ways in which they might do this can be found in Ordinarily Available Provision <https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/news/2022/oct/ordinarily-available-provision-2022-2025>

What you can do to help?

- Ensure your child attends school regularly.
- Check your child's bag every night for homework / letters.
- Praise your child for things they can do well and allow time for them to engage activities they enjoy and are successful at.
- Try to be calm and encouraging.
- Acknowledge that school maybe particularly tiring for your child, as they are often working twice as hard as their peers.
- Read aloud to your child as much as you can. And offer a variety of reading materials that interest your child such as comics and magazines.
- Talk to your child about difficulties/ concerns. Share with them all the famous people that you know who are dyslexic.
- Work closely with your child's school to find the best way forward.
- Barrington Stoke books offer dyslexic readers books which are high interest low reading age to encourage reluctant readers.