

Brooke Weston Trust Primary SEND Newsletter

This term's SEND newsletter is about dyslexia. Please read through the information about dyslexia below. If you feel that your child could possibly be showing signs of dyslexia, please arrange a meeting with your child's teacher and/or the SENDCo to seek further advice and guidance.

What is Dyslexia?

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
- Organisational skills
- Spelling
- Short-term memory
- Writing and 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
- Intuitive and enhanced creativity
- Verbally articulate
- Strong visual thinking

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.

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

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, by a registered optometrist, 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.)

Speak to your child's class teacher and/or SENDCo.

Tests and Examinations

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

National Curriculum Test

Children with dyslexia 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>

Further information:

British Dyslexia Association: <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

The Schools SEND information report can be found at : <https://www.oakleyvaleprimary.org/page/?title=Equalities%2FSEND&pid=49>

The Local Offer can be found at: <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/send/local-offer/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, email your SENDCo at: rebecca.annetts@oakleyvaleprimary.org