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# Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia

Parent Carer Guide  
to Additional Learning  
Needs

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## Dyslexia (Reading and Language Processing)

Dyslexia is a common learning difficulty that primarily affects reading, writing, and spelling. It's important to understand that:

**It's a specific learning difficulty:** This means it primarily impacts certain learning abilities, particularly those related to language.

**It's not related to intelligence:** People with dyslexia have a wide range of intelligence levels.

**It affects language processing:** Dyslexia often involves difficulties in processing the sounds of language, which can lead to challenges in connecting those sounds to letters and words.

**It's a spectrum:** The severity of dyslexia can vary significantly from person to person.

**It's a lifelong condition:** While strategies and support can greatly help, dyslexia is typically a lifelong condition.

**It can cause other difficulties:** Although the primary difficulties are with reading and spelling, it can also affect things such as organisation, and short term memory.

In essence, dyslexia is a neurological difference that impacts how the brain processes language, leading to challenges with reading and related skills.

## Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia is a specific learning difficulty that affects a person's ability to understand and work with numbers. It's often described as "dyslexia with numbers." Here's a breakdown of key aspects:

**Difficulty with Numbers:** People with dyscalculia struggle with basic math concepts, such as number sense, counting, and calculations. They may have trouble recognising and understanding numerical symbols.

**Impact on Daily Life:** Dyscalculia can affect everyday tasks, including:

- Managing money
- Telling time
- Following directions
- Understanding measurements

## REMEMBER!

It's important to remember that if you suspect your child has dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, or dyspraxia, a professional assessment is crucial for accurate diagnosis and tailored support.

**Not Related to Intelligence:** Like dyslexia, dyscalculia is not an indicator of intelligence. People with dyscalculia can have a wide range of cognitive abilities.

**Neurological Basis:** Dyscalculia is believed to have a neurological basis, affecting how the brain processes numerical information.

**Varied Severity:** The severity of dyscalculia can vary, and it can occur alongside other learning difficulties.

In essence, dyscalculia is a learning difference that makes it challenging to grasp and use mathematical concepts.

## Dysgraphia

Dysgraphia is a learning difficulty that affects handwriting and other fine motor skills related to writing. It's not simply "bad handwriting"; it's a neurological condition that makes the physical act of writing challenging. Here's a breakdown:

**Handwriting Difficulties:** People with dysgraphia often struggle with forming letters correctly, spacing words, and writing legibly. Their handwriting may be slow, laboured, and inconsistent.

**Fine Motor Skills:** Dysgraphia can also affect other fine motor skills, such as drawing or using scissors.

**Spelling and Composition:** While primarily a motor skill issue, dysgraphia can also impact spelling and written expression, as the effort of writing can interfere with the thought process.

**Not Related to Intelligence:** Like other learning difficulties, dysgraphia is not related to intelligence. People with dysgraphia can have a wide range of cognitive abilities.

**Neurological Basis:** Dysgraphia is believed to have a neurological basis, affecting the brain's ability to process and execute the motor skills required for writing.

**Varied Severity:** The severity of dysgraphia can vary significantly.

Essentially, dysgraphia is a learning difference that makes the physical act of writing difficult, affecting both handwriting and related fine motor skills.

You can learn more here:

