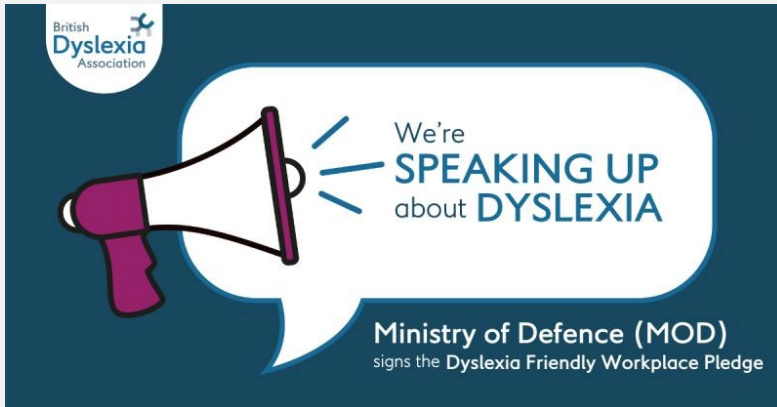


Welcome to the latest edition of our WDA newsletters.



The British Dyslexia Association congratulates the [UK Ministry of Defence](#) on becoming the first government department to sign the Dyslexia Friendly Workplace Pledge.

One in ten people have dyslexia, and by signing it, it is committing to raising awareness of dyslexia and promoting dyslexia friendly practices amongst its service personnel in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force and Civil Service.

Will your workplace join our mission in taking the Dyslexia Friendly Workplace Pledge?
[Getting started - Take the Dyslexia Friendly Workplace Pledge - British Dyslexia Association](#)

Revealed: The experts appointed to SEND inclusion panels

Sector leaders have been appointed to two new expert panels tasked with advising the government on how to make mainstream schools more inclusive to fix the “broken” SEND system.

The **advisory group** will meet monthly to “look at how to improve mainstream education outcomes and experience for children and young people with SEND”.

Also announced was membership of the government's new **neurodivergence task and finish group**, chaired by Professor Karen Guldberg, head of the School of Education, and former Director of the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER) at the School of Education, University of Birmingham.

The DfE said the group will “help us to understand how to improve inclusivity and expertise in mainstream schools, in a way that works for neurodivergent children and young people to aid reform”.

The expert panel will include Ellen Broomé, CEO of the British Dyslexia Association.

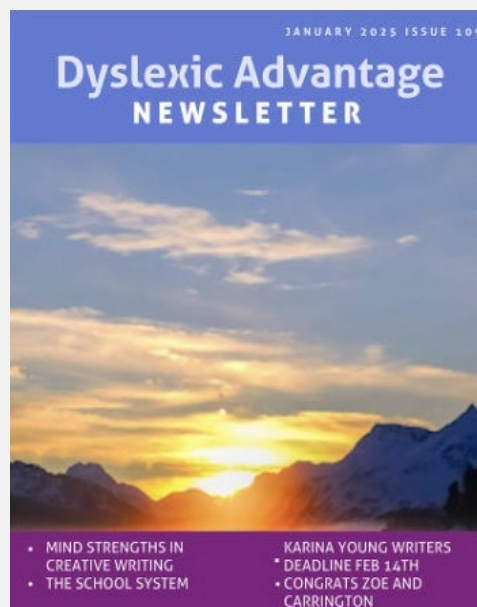
Full article at:

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/revealed-6-experts-appointed-to-send-inclusion-panel/>

NEWSLETTERS



Link to December Newsletter :
<https://joom.ag/4e7d>



Link to January Newsletter :
<https://joom.ag/Oj7d>

Check out past issues by signing up for a free registration:
<https://www.dyslexicadvantage.org/newsletter-archives/>

Read and listen to more articles in the [DYSLEXIA LIBRARY](#).

SEND Newsletter

Wiltshire Council

[January SEND News: Webinars, Grants, Updates, Youth Clubs & New Early Help Team](#)

New Information Pages Now Available for Dyslexia, Autism, and ADHD

- [Information on emotionally based school avoidance \(EBSA\) - Local Offer](#)
- [Autism and ADHD information - Local Offer](#)
- [Dyslexia in Wiltshire - Local Offer](#)
- [SEND Advice and Information - Local Offer](#)

The Local Offer website is your go-to resource for all things SEND in Wiltshire, providing essential information and updates.

Looking to get involved? Check out our [Getting Involved page](#), where you'll find a range of opportunities including online surveys, virtual meetings, and in-person events.

If you're having trouble finding specific information about a service or need advice on a particular topic, or if you'd like to share an event or service with us, don't hesitate to reach out via our [Contact Us page](#).



Christmas 2024

Dear friend,

It seems a waste to send you a Christmas card and not include a bit of a 2024 update. So, here's a 'snapshot in numbers' of another record-breaking year at Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity:

4,434 – we touched the lives of 4,434 people this year, with our various services.

1,816 – 1,816 children, young people and adults received 1:1 dyslexia support from our team, in the form of assessments, consultations, coaching, skills-building and tuition.

2,618 – another 2,618 people received advice and tips on how to support people around them, who have dyslexia, including parents, teachers, schools and workplaces.

610 – 610 individuals benefitted from bursary-funded support, including low-income families, and State School teachers/TAs. Thank you so much to our wonderful donors and supporters for your generosity, and for making this possible!!

3 – we provided specialist support to 3 prison settings, including workshops with prisoners, guards and other stakeholders, and advice on the dyslexia-friendliness of their premises.

5,049 – our team provided 5,049 hours of tuition/coaching to children and adults with dyslexia. (Another record for the charity).

60 – we trained 60 teachers, teaching assistants and other interested parties up to Levels 5 and 7 Diplomas in the support of learners with dyslexia.

1 – it might only have been 1, but it was AMAZING!. Our Patron HRH Princess Beatrice hosted 1 tea party at St James's Palace, in order to say Thank You to some of this charity's wonderful supporters.

Thank you so much for all your help and support this year. We look forward to working with you in 2024, but in the meantime.....

Happy Christmas!!
from Andy, and all the Teams at Helen Arkell



Changes to Wiltshire Neurodevelopmental Pathway Referral Process

From 1st January 2025, HCRG Care Group will require all new referrals for suspected neurodevelopmental conditions to follow the Needs-Led Approach. The Needs Led Approach is a holistic approach to supporting families in a creative and empowered way. HCRG wants to work in partnership between education, health and families to improve outcomes and experiences for children and young people who may be neurodivergent.

Who Completes the Approach?

A Needs-Led Approach profile will usually be completed by home and school together. All education settings/schools can access free training and resources to use this approach. If your child is not in an education setting, the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) will be able to support you to use a Needs-Led Approach profile. GPs are not able to make direct referrals into HCRG Care Group for suspected neurodevelopmental (ND) conditions.

What Support is there for Families using this Approach?

Parents and carers can call the WPCC's Neurodevelopmental Information (NDI) telephone advice line to discuss queries about autism and ADHD support, ND assessment and The Needs Led Approach.

PLEASE NOTE: The WPCC NDI advice line is open **Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am - 5:00pm**. Parent carers can call the WPCC NDI advice line on: **01225 764647** and **select option 2**. Parents and carers can also send an email if they prefer to: ndi@wiltsppcc.co.uk.

Information about changes to the referral process can also be found on the [HCRG Care Group website](#).

Free Audiobooks for Children and Young People

Reading lets children discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past. It sparks imagination, gets children thinking differently and helps them develop empathy.

Research from the National Literacy Trusts shows that listening to audio can provide a gateway into reading for many young people, and it is known this is especially important for children who have a special educational need, long term health condition or disability which impacts on their ability to read print.

[Kids Who Read Succeed, With LBC's Nick Ferrari | National Literacy Trust](#).

[Calibre Audio](#) is a national charity which provides free audiobooks to children and young people under 25 years with SEND. Their service makes books and stories accessible to children who find reading print difficult because of a learning difference, long term health condition or disability.

Calibre audio

Free Audiobooks for kids

who struggle to read as a result of:

- Visual impairment
- Dyslexia
- ADHD
- Autism
- And other physical or neurological conditions



If you are struggling to find the right words to talk to your child about dyslexia, you're not alone, and we're here to help!

Join Katie Nelson, experienced Dyslexia Specialist and founder of the Dyslexia & Dyscalculia Academy, and Caroline Hunt, fellow Dyslexia Specialist, for an empowering and insightful webinar designed to support parents on this important journey.

Date: Tuesday 28th January

Time: 10am

Where: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Cost: Absolutely FREE!

What You'll Gain:

- ✦ Practical Conversation Starters: Learn how to approach this sensitive topic with confidence and compassion.
- ✦ Useful Resources: Discover tools and strategies to help your child understand their strengths and challenges.
- ✦ Expert Insights: Benefit from Katie and Caroline's decades of experience in working with children and families navigating dyslexia.
- ✦ Supportive Community: Connect with like-minded parents who understand your journey.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear from two leading experts in the field of dyslexia as they share their ideas, tips, and strategies to start the conversation that can empower your child and foster a positive self-identity.

Dyslexia Workshop for Parents and Carers

Tuesday 28 January
4 – 5.30pm online (no recording)

Wiltshire's [Specialist SEN Service \(SSENS\)](#) will be providing a **free online event for parents and carers** on Tuesday, 28 January from 4 – 5.30pm.

All SENCOs have been sent details. This live session will allow parents to find out what dyslexia is, how schools and other agencies in Wiltshire identify and support literacy difficulties, and ways to help at home.

You can join on the day on Microsoft Teams – there is no need to book.

Click [here](#) for the direct link to the session.

(Meeting ID and passcode if you need them - Meeting ID: 374 279 554 628 - Passcode: w6WfHA.)

See also: [Wiltshire Council Dyslexia Leaflet](#)



CALLScotland

January-June 2025 Webinar programme now live!

Does Assistive Technology form part of your PRD targets?
Are you looking to upskill your knowledge of the world of AT to better support your learners?



Adult Network : Neurodiversity & Dyslexia

Next FREE monthly webinar from ANND

Thursday 30th January at 7-8pm

***My Insights and Journey with Neurodiversity
with Dr Helen Ross***

The link to the Teams broadcast is available here: [Click here to join meeting](#)

Please click on it a few minutes before the meeting is due to start.

Catch up with our webinars on our [YouTube channel](#).

ANND are a non-profit coalition of dedicated organisations who are passionate about supporting our community and provide a free webinar each month on topics relating to neurodiversity.

**Kingston
University
London**

**Department
of Education
Event**



*Empowering Educators
Unlocking Literacy
Transforming Lives*

This webinar series continues . . .

Stop Dyslexic Learners Underperforming at School

This is a free initiative Kingston University is running to equip everyone to better support learners struggling with literacy. The webinars demonstrate free/affordable technologies and strategies to enable students overcoming various barriers to attainment.

On Tuesday 4th January, we had the third webinar "**Technology to overcome reading difficulties**" in the series. [Please find copy of the slides here](#), complete with links to enable you to learn more.

[Recordings for all three webinars are available on our website](#), under recordings of past webinars section.

[Register Now for our February Webinar - Technology and strategies to overcome writing difficulties, on Tuesday 11th February 6-7pm.](#)

To those who have registered to the February webinar, we would like to inform you that the upcoming webinar, originally scheduled for 4th February, has been rescheduled. It will now take place at **6-7pm on 11th February**, via MS Teams. You will receive a new link to join online nearer the time. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.



Looking for SEND Information?

Are you looking for information to support you to help your child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)?

This free to attend event is for parent carers of children with SEND, and those who work with them. It could be just what you are looking for to help you find out more about some of the services and support in Wiltshire.

The aim of the event is to provide a range of information to help illustrate some of the choices and options available for children/young people, showcase elements of the Local Offer in an accessible and interactive format, and provide a comfortable space and opportunities to facilitate networking opportunities for both parent carers and professionals alike.

Other reasons to attend include: -

- Free workshop
- Information from over different services and providers
- Free tea, coffee and cakes
- Meet and talk to other parent carers and a range of professionals and practitioners

See our virtual pre-event pack for lots more information



You can book using this QR code



**Friday 7th
February 2025**

**Civic Centre
Trowbridge
BA14 8AH**

**Registration from
9.30am**

**Event Runs from
10am to 2pm**

Parent carers will be able to claim travel & childcare expenses from the WPCC

(Contact us to discuss childcare claims before the event)

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

You can book online

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SENDISFeb25

Alternatively

Phone: 01225 764647 (option 1)

Email: reception@wiltspcc.co.uk

**Booking closes 5pm on
31st January 2025**

Full details in [Pre-Event Information Booklet](#)

Supporting Learners with Dyslexia and Dyscalculia
EXCITING NEW LEVEL 3 COURSE!



OCN Accredited



BY POPULAR DEMAND- NEXT DATES!

- Day 1- Dyslexia - Monday 17th February
- Day 2- Dyslexia - Monday 3rd March
- Day 3- Dyscalculia - Monday 10th March
- Day 4- Dyscalculia - Monday 17th March



**HOPE TO
SEE
YOU SOON!**



www.positivedyslexia.co.uk
www.dyscalculianetwork.com

[Supporting Learners with Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Accredited \(4 days\)
Tickets, Mon, Feb 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Session: Using KAZ's Inclusive Touch Typing Software in SEND settings
Date: Thursday 13th February 2025
Time: 15.30 to 16.00 (GMT)

CENMAC's Thursday Thirty

[CENMAC's Thursday Thirty - Using KAZ's Inclusive Touch Typing Software
Tickets, Thu, Feb 13, 2025 at 3:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Understand why touch typing is a vital skill for learners with SEND. Learn how KAZ's inclusive touch typing software uses specialised features to accommodate each learner's unique needs, addressing their challenges while making learning the skill enjoyable, engaging, and accessible.

[> Reserve your spot](#)

Adult Dyslexia Centre

Advising • Developing • Connecting

Understanding Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Online course for parents, carers and teachers of dyslexic children

4 sessions running on Wednesday evenings in March 2025 at 7.30pm to 9pm.

March 5th - Understanding your child with dyslexia – Dr Diana Hudson

March 12th - Reading strategies and phonics – Donna Stevenson

March 19th - Spelling strategies and handwriting - Louise Turner

March 26th - Maths and dyslexia – Amanda Keen

The course will give an understanding of dyslexia and dyscalculia, including strategies for supporting the child in their learning.

Delivered online, via Zoom, sessions are lively and interactive. Places are limited to facilitate participation and discussion. The session speakers are all experts. They help you understand dyslexia and dyscalculia and offer lots of support strategies.

Read about our speakers [Click Here](#)

Katrina Cochrane, a trustee, talks about the course. To view short video [Click here](#)

To find out more and register for the course visit our parents page by clicking below. [Read more](#)

Free to attend conference



Join us at Education Business LIVE on 19th March at Evolution London for a one-day conference and exhibition. The dynamic event will showcase the latest innovations in education and provide unparalleled opportunities to connect with industry leaders, educators, and suppliers.

The event also hosts the 2024 Education Business Awards, which has been recognising excellence in the education sector annually since 2006, with award categories ranging from leadership to procurement, security, technology and more.

[Book your FREE place](#)

Session: Exploring Widgit's new Learning App - Symblla
 Date: Thursday 27th March 2025
 Time: 15.30 to 16.00 (GMT)

CENMAC's Thursday Thirty

CENMAC Assistive Technology in Education
 Charlton Park Academy

CENMAC's Thursday Thirty - Exploring Widgit's new Learning App - Symblla Tickets, Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 3:30 PM | Eventbrite

In this session Widgit's Head of Education, Sue White, will introduce Widgit's new Learning App - Symblla.

Find out how students can interact with Widgit Symbols through activities designed to enhance vocabulary, introduce new concepts and support the process of learning to read. Discover the hundreds of readymade activities and how to easily adapt, edit and create your own resources to support the curriculum.

2025 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
How Theory Impacts Practice

Keynote:
Jack A. Naglieri, Ph.D.

Saturday
 5th April, 2025

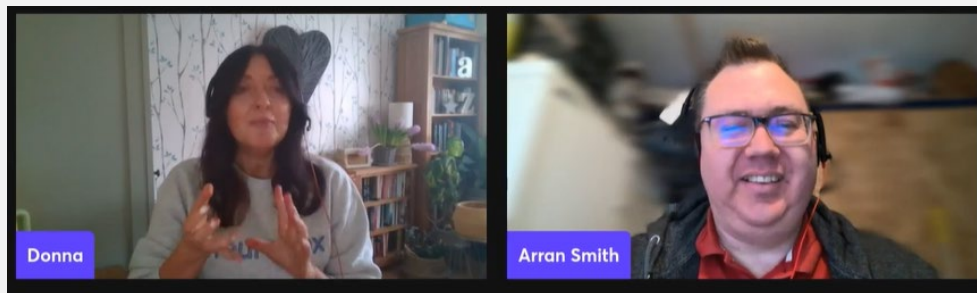
patoss

Jack A. Naglieri will deliver a keynote address on his PASS theory of cognitive abilities

The 2025 conference promises to be a rich gathering of experts who have successfully bridged the gap between theory and practice or are currently exploring how theoretical insights can be translated into practical applications.

Visit the [Conference page](#) on the website to see our speakers introduce their seminars.

For more information and/or to book your place [click here](#)



Let's Talk The Neurodiversity Show

Event by neurobox

[Let's Talk The Neurodiversity Show | LinkedIn](#)

We're thrilled to bring you the first Let's Talk session of the year!

We're kicking off 2025 with an exciting conversation about the [Neurodiversity Show](#) 2025.

[Donna Stevenson](#) sat down with [Arran Smith](#), the show's founder, for an in-depth chat covering everything you need to know — from this year's themes and topics to what to expect during this two-day event!

The show takes place May 9th – 10th and promises to be a must-attend highlight of the year!

Learn more here: <https://lnkd.in/e6dXYydk>



[Dyscalculia Conference - Edge Hill University Tickets, Thu 26 Jun 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

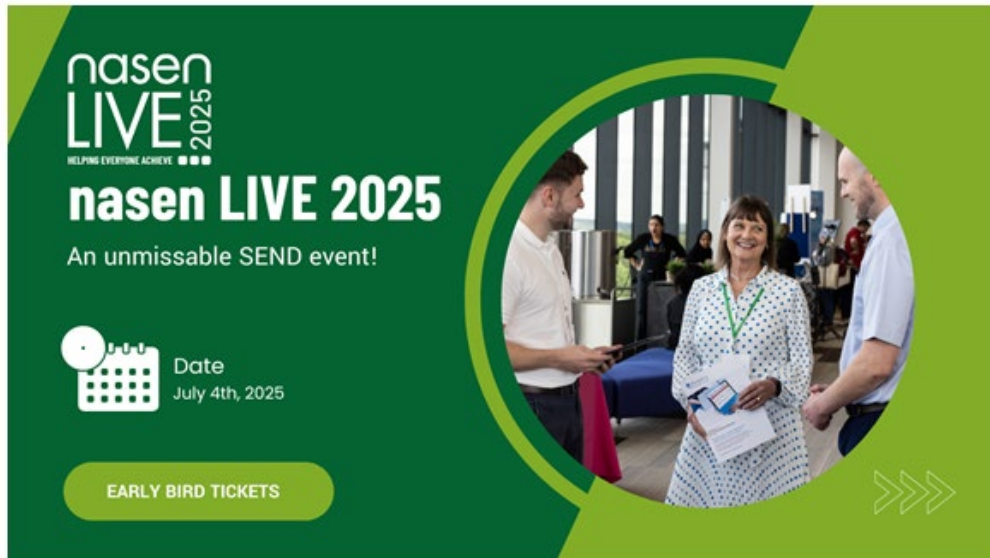
New Year - new conferences announced for 2025.

The first is on June 26th at Edge Hill University - Navigating the New Dyscalculia Definition: Challenges and Opportunities.

Key note speaker [Giannis Karagiannakis](#) from Athens University.

Early bird rate till March 1st.
<https://bit.ly/edgehilldyscalculia>

Tickets for nasen LIVE 2025 are now on sale!



The poster features a green background with a circular inset image of three people at a conference. Text on the poster includes: 'nasen LIVE 2025 HELPING EVERYONE ACHIEVE', 'nasen LIVE 2025', 'An unmissable SEND event!', a calendar icon with 'Date July 4th, 2025', and a button that says 'EARLY BIRD TICKETS'. There are also three white arrows pointing right at the bottom right of the poster.

Be part of this unmissable event packed with innovation, inclusion, and inspiration in the world of SEND. Join leading specialists, educators, and advocates for a day of invaluable insights and impactful learning at our in-person CPD conference.

Book my place

FUNDRAISING

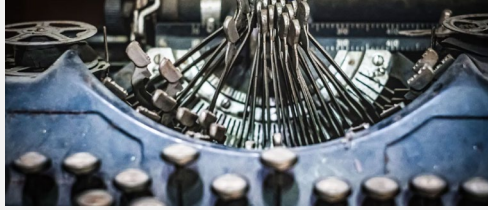


We've had 13 donations in the last 30 days, thanks to our WDA supporters using #easyfundraising when they make online purchases! Thank you! Your donations are very much appreciated.

Please sign up to support the WDA for free to increase our chances of winning a £250 donation in their new giveaway! Each new person who joins counts as an entry – plus once you've signed up you can raise free donations for us when you shop online with over 8,000 retailers.

Booking a holiday? Please use #easyfundraising! You can raise a BIG donation for WDA with TUI, Expedia, First Choice and many more travel providers at no extra cost to yourself! Plus, if you take their travel poll, you can get the best deals for your 2025 getaway and enter us into a prize draw to win £1,000!

If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet, please sign up here: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/wiltshiredyslexia/0XRQZC/c2s/FzJmq30s/CE016/facebook/>



[Dyslexia defined: what teachers and schools can do | Tes](#)

[Ellen Broome](#) • [CEO of the British Dyslexia Association](#) wrote on LinkedIn:

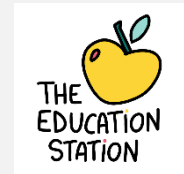
Have a read of this! A great article in the [Tes](#) on 'Dyslexia: the myths, the facts and how teachers can help' by the excellent [Julia Carroll](#), [Maggie Snowling CBE](#) and Caroline Holden.

It says, "We ... know a good deal more about how to support children and ameliorate the challenges of dyslexia in the early years of school."

Despite this, too many children are not supported and most leave school undiagnosed. There is currently no structure for identifying and supporting pupils with dyslexia in England, Wales and NI. Perhaps we should follow the lead of Scotland where they have a dyslexia identification pathway?

[Scanning Pens](#)

[Do you feel like you have 'Dyslexic Superpowers'?](#)



How 'super' does dyslexia really make you feel?

People have often talked about the idea of 'dyslexic superpowers' in the past. These 'powers' or 'gifts' are a set of skills and traits that many believe occur alongside dyslexic reading and writing differences, including:

- Strong spatial and [creative skills](#)
- 'Thinking outside the box' and problem-solving
- [Entrepreneurship](#)
- Communication and empathy

But in recent years, 'superpowers' narratives have been claimed to put pressure on learners and generalise dyslexic people, even as they try to do the opposite.

What's the truth of the matter— and most importantly, is it a positive thing for students?

Read on at: [Do you feel like you have 'Dyslexic Superpowers'?](#)

See further articles:

[So what did we learn about teaching kids with dyslexia this year? | LinkedIn](#)

[What's making my dyslexic child so nervous about exams? | LinkedIn](#)

[...Are we really in a literacy crisis? | LinkedIn](#)



At the end of 2024, Kate Griggs (CEO & Founder of Made By Dyslexia) wanted to write and say thank you for everyone's support throughout the year . . .

What a year it's been!

2024 was the year we found the type of intelligence the world needs has changed.

Our Intelligence 5.0 report, launched in September, found that Dyslexic Thinking skills are now the most in demand skills in every job, across all sectors, globally, TODAY.

Watch Kate share the top 5 take-aways - <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/KAcdfNcVGfg>
Read the Intelligence 5.0 report - [MBD-Intelligence-5.0-Report.pdf](#)

2024 was the year we launched the world's first University of Dyslexic Thinking

A new school of thought where everyone can learn the intelligence the world now needs. Hosted by the Open University, the DyslexicU is online and free for all.

Watch Richard Branson's Commencement speech - [Dyslexic Thinking](#)
Sign up to DyslexicU - [Dyslexic Thinking](#)

2024 saw us launch Season 2 of our chart-topping podcast

With BBC wildlife presenter, Hamza Yassin, Made By Dyslexia ambassador Megan McCubbin, Tom Gates creator Liz Pichon, and Lonnie Ali (wife of Muhammad Ali).

Listen to our podcast - [Lessons In Dyslexic Thinking Podcast - Apple Podcasts](#)
Watch our podcast - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT1MXtL-wyGeKLVl8c5wV9y14sECprqCN>

2024 was the year we hit the news all around the world

From The Times to the Independent, Saturday Night Live to NBC, we hit the headlines all over the globe as we launched the University of Dyslexic Thinking.

See the buzz it created - [2024 was the year we hit the news all around the world](#)
Enrol in DyslexicU - [Dyslexic Thinking](#)

2024 was the year I launched the NEW & REVISED edition of my book:

The brand new edition of This Is Dyslexia is packed with tips and tricks to understand your dyslexic mind and tap into the limitless potential of your Dyslexic Thinking.

Listen to the audiobook - [This Is Dyslexia: The definitive guide to the untapped power of dyslexic thinking and its vital role in our future \(Audio Download\): Kate Griggs, Kate Griggs, Penguin Audio: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

Grab a paper copy - [This Is Dyslexia: Amazon.co.uk: Griggs, Kate: 9781785045646: Books](#)

Of course, we couldn't have done any of it without your support. We are SO excited for 2025. We just know it is going to be another transformational year of change for dyslexia and for dyslexics everywhere!

For now, thanks for everything you do to share our message far and wide.

Caroline writes: Many in Wiltshire know our friend Myles Pilling – and we are very grateful for his continuing support of the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association! 😊



A fond farewell to Myles

Myles Pilling, who has served on the BATA Council for over 10 years, has retired his role and is taking a well-earned rest after a lifetime of contribution to the AT sector.

During his time, Myles led the Education Special Interest Group, helping foster vital conversations around SEND provision and the ongoing challenges both pupils and teachers face in getting access to the right assistive technology.

He was also instrumental in the Power of AT initiative, helping produce the films and giving presentations throughout the country at various events and schools.

Thank you for your huge contribution to BATA, Myles. You will be missed!

**#succeed
with
dyslexia
Digest**

[Build-Your-Own-Email:
Disclosing Dyslexia to your
current employer | LinkedIn](#)



See also:

[New Year, Same Old Dyslexic You: Let's Thrive in 2025!](#)



Education
Endowment
Foundation

[Could using ChatGPT – alongside a guide to support its effective use – help cut teachers' lesson preparation time?](#)

[Ellen Broome - CEO of the British Dyslexia Association](#) wrote:

Really interesting to see research from the [Education Endowment Foundation \(EEF\)](#) on the use of [hashtag#AI](#) (ChatGPT) and impact on teaching - a live issue where it feels we don't have much evidence. Have a read!



What's it like to have dyslexia? - BBC Newsround

How do you know if you have dyslexia?
How to get tested for dyslexia
Does dyslexia affect memory?
Does dyslexia affect grammar and reading?
How do you manage dyslexia?
What causes dyslexia and is it inherited?
Can you develop dyslexia when you get older?
Can you cure dyslexia?
What's it like living with dyslexia?

FREE LIVE ONLINE MASTERCLASS Neurodiversity and Supporting our Mental Health

Join Jo and Annie as they share how neurodiversity and mental health can impact each other and gain some tips and strategies to not only support you in January but throughout the year.



In collaboration with
Annie Hitchman



Thank you for registering

WWW.DYSLEXICLIFEWITHJOREES.COM

[HERE](#) is the recording

If you couldn't attend the sessions live and do have any questions regarding the content, please get in touch via email jo+anotherwayround.co.uk.247@myactivecampaign.com or through mine or Annie's social channels.

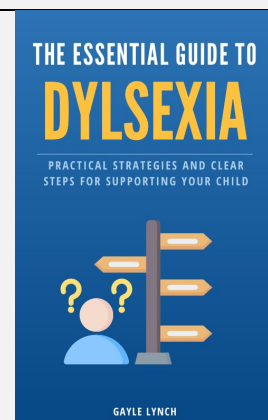
CALLScotland

New amazing Writing Tools in iOS 18 with the introduction of Apple Intelligence

Here we explore the new Apple Intelligence that integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the iPad, iPhone and Mac devices.

New Symbols for All Updates

The Symbols for All website has been updated with new and refreshed resources. These printable materials support communication and learning across the curriculum and are available as PDFs.



Essential Guide to Dyslexia PDF (1).pdf

Thinking Ahead around Exam Access with Maureen De Longhi, Advisory Teacher

In this online session (recorded 19 September 2024) CENMAC Advisory Teacher Maureen De Longhi provides useful information about organising access arrangements for the 2025 SATs, Key Stage 2 tests and the GCSE exams.

During exams, organising access arrangements can be a nightmare. Throw Assistive Technology into the mix and there is the potential for some students to miss out on arrangements that may better support their needs, because their teachers are either unaware of what assistive technologies are available or unsure of whether they would contravene the rules.

Schools may wish to consider the use of technology to a much greater extent than they do currently. Assistive Technology not only allows candidates to work more independently and is a far better preparation for further and higher education and the world of employment but is also a far more cost-effective way of supporting their SEND students through the exam period.

The aims of this session are to:

- Outline the role of AT to improve the ability of students to communicate, learn and achieve as a usual way of working and explore some of the technology available
- Look at JCQ guidance to schools and colleges with regard to the use of assistive technology for access arrangements and identify the key points.
- Consider how to make the necessary applications to enable students to use AT in exams.

[> View recording](#)

Exam Entries and Access Arrangements June 2025 Exam Series Important dates to remember for the GCSE Exams	
31 January 2025	Last date to request modified papers for the June 2025 Exam Series eg enlarged, digital etc.
15 February 2025	Examination Entry Deadline for the June 2025 Exam Series (All GCSEs, IGCSEs, A-Levels, AS Levels)
21 March 2025	Last date to request all other access arrangements .
5 May – 20 June 2025	GCSE Exams – Exam Period – Start week commencing Monday 5 May and finish Friday 20 June 2025.
	Special Consideration -Special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment.

[Overview of evidence requirements for access arrangements](#)

[JCQ-Parent-guidance-information-sheet.pdf](#)

[Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#)



In the UK, it is compulsory for young people to be in education or training until they are 18 years old. Some will proceed to A Levels in their existing school or sixth-form college, but others may consider a technical course or an apprenticeship.

Important changes have been taking place to post 16 qualifications which may impact the choices available for those looking to commence a course of study in September 2025.

Read about what is happening and explanations about what post 16 qualifications are available at: [Post 16 Qualifications - British Dyslexia Association](#)

Also available as a pdf: [Post-16.pdf](#)

Thinking differently about accessibility

For most people, accessing the internet and using digital skills is part of daily life. Digital skills are used at work, to socialise, to shop, to travel and to access many essential services such as banking and medical appointments.

Some dyslexic individuals prefer digital tools and rely upon them to access the world around them, but others find that their dyslexic challenges can create barriers that significantly affect how they interact with digital technology.

Read full article at: [Thinking differently about accessibility - British Dyslexia Association](#)

[Download the article here \(pdf, 2.351 MB\)](#)



My eight-year-old dyslexic son is finally making some progress with his reading, although still avoids it whenever possible.

Do you have any suggestions for some “stealth” reading practice at home which he won’t object to?

Many dyslexic children find reading difficult and exhausting. Allow him some freedom in choosing how and what he wants to read. Choose topics that he enjoys – both stories and non-fiction books. Read little and often and praise him for the progress he is making. Look for “stealth” reading opportunities outside of books – read the menu, cereal packets, shop notices, road signs etc when you are out and about.

Audio books can be a great way to take the stress out of reading and help to develop language and vocabulary. They enable dyslexic children to access books which they would be unable to read themselves. This can enable struggling readers to read the same stories as their peers and to access topics which may be more age appropriate and interesting. Some children prefer reading on screens rather than a paper-based book, so downloading a reading app onto a tablet, or using an eBook might also be worth exploring.

Babies and Toddlers can be Library Members

You can join the library at any age and membership is free. You will be able to use your library card at any Wiltshire library or mobile library. You can also use it for eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines and other online resources too. There is no lower age limit for children joining the library; they need to visit the library with a parent (or legal guardian) who will need to bring a form of ID (e.g. an allowance book, bank statement or driving licence) which contains their name and current address if this is not possible, library staff will supply a membership form and library card to take home for signature by a parent. More information [HERE](#).

- Parents and carers can bring babies and toddlers to a rhyme time - have fun and meet others.
- You can borrow books for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.
- Once you have joined, ask your library about your free baby Bookstart pack (if you haven't had one yet).
- Join 'Story Sharers' in larger libraries and collect stickers and certificates.

For more information, contact your nearest library or email: libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk.



Accessible Reading for All

Dolphin is committed to removing barriers to reading and learning. We believe every young person should be able to read and learn in a way that's accessible to them. This year Dolphin has developed EasyReader App, and EasyReader Premium further, to help make reading accessible to more people.



646,000 free books and newspapers downloaded on EasyReader App this year.



Readers can choose books from different file formats and read across all types of devices.



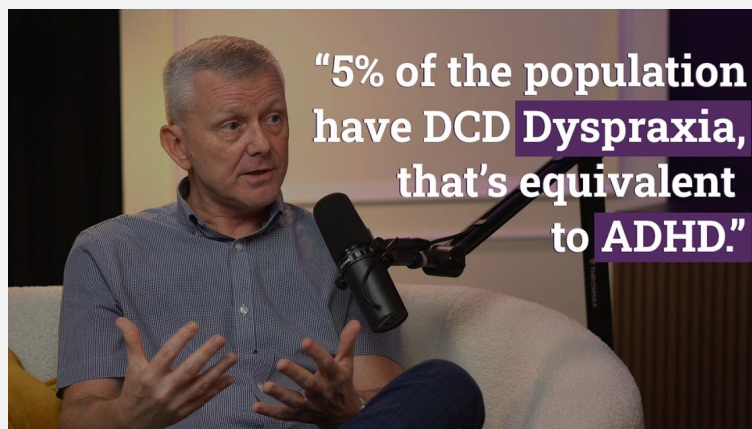
Partnerships with 49 accessible libraries globally brings accessible reading to more people.



Proud sponsor of NASEN Live, working with the National Assoc for Special Educational Needs.

Find out more about the free EasyReader App and download it to your devices today, so you can cosy up to enjoy a good book this winter!

[About EasyReader App](#)



Are you a teaching professional working to support dyspraxic students?

In the latest episode of our podcast series, SENSational, we're joined by Colin Foley, Training Director from The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity, sharing practical tips and strategies for supporting learners with DCD/dyspraxia. We discuss common challenges children face, identify the early signs of co-ordination and memory challenges, and the importance of adapting learning techniques to help them shine in school.

[Watch on YouTube](#)



ADHD and the brain

ADHD is a common condition caused by differences in the brain. Learn about the structure and chemistry of the ADHD brain.

[Learn the basics →](#)

What's it like to have ADHD?

Meet Kayla, a middle-schooler with ADHD. Find out how hyperactivity and trouble with self-control can impact her day.

[Follow Kayla's day →](#)

Ways to help your child at home

When your child has ADHD, what can you do at home to help? These ADHD tips and strategies are a good place to start. Think about the skills your child needs to work on and what's manageable for your family. Then dive in.

[Explore strategies](#)



Chirp, chirp...

The Big Schools' Birdwatch is here! Until 14 February, get your little learners outdoors and exploring with our bird-watching resource pack.

[Download Free](#)

Snow much fun

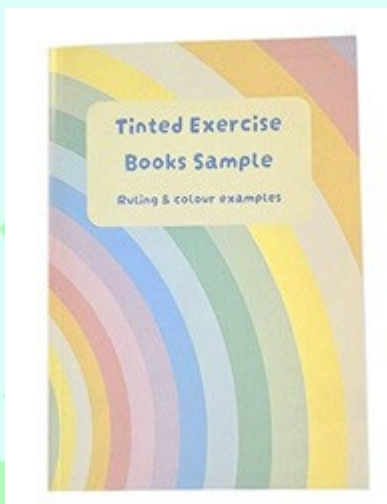
Celebrate the beauty of the season with this symbol-supported Winter Pack!

[Download Free](#)

Year of the Sssnake

Explore the rich traditions of the Lunar New Year and celebrate the 2025 Year of the Snake with symbol-supported activities, including themed writing prompts and colouring pages.

[Download Free Sample](#)



[Get your FREE copy](#)

You can view our new handwriting rulings for FREE in our Tinted Exercise Book Sample Booklet.

Also includes all of our page colours and other exercise book rulings.

Product codes included on each page for easy ordering.

Get your free booklet today!

DYSLEXIA TRAINING INSTITUTE

Dr. Kelli Sandman-Hurley introduces you to the Dyslexia Training Institute and all the certificates, courses and programs offered.

[Dyslexia Training Institute](#)



Quick links

Check out our [courses](#)

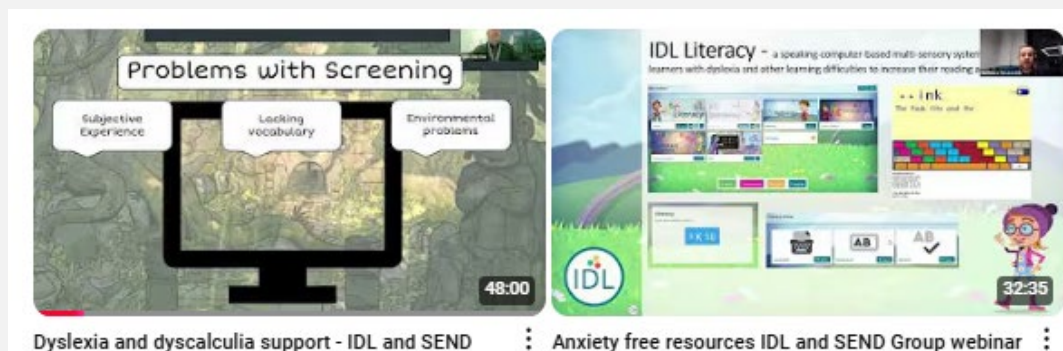
Find out about dyslexia [assessments](#)

Find out about [specialist tuition](#)

Go to our [online shop](#)

See all our [news](#)

Follow us on social media and keep up with the latest news on dyslexia and on what we are up to at Helen Arkell. You can follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



[IDL Solutions - YouTube](#)

Including

[Dyslexia and dyscalculia support - IDL and SEND Group webinar](#)

During the webinar, we explored:

- **Innovative teaching strategies** to enhance literacy and numeracy skills.
- **Cutting-edge resources** specifically designed to support pupils with **SEN, Dyslexia, and Dyscalculia**.
- **How to improve learning outcomes** for all learners.

We are confident that our award-winning programs can significantly benefit your pupils. To experience its transformative power firsthand, I invite you to **book a FREE trial and demo with me**.

During this session, we will:

- **Demonstrate** the program's key features and functionalities.
- **Answer all your questions** and address any specific concerns you may have.
- **Tailor the demonstration** to your school's unique needs.

To schedule your FREE trial and demo, please reply to this email or contact me directly at **01524 580 665** or matthew.szczesniak@idlsgroup.com.

Website: www.idlsgroup.com



LOUISE SELBY
DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST

Louise Selby

Please check out my brand new Dyslexia Friendly Schools webpage, complete with free resources, top tips, case studies and many, many examples in images.

These are linked to my new books All About Dyslexia (primary and secondary), where you can find out much, much more!

Huge thanks to St Joseph and St Bede RC Primary in Bury, Wilshere Dacre Academy in Hitchin and Zouch Academy in Tidworth. Thanks also to Gaby Prothero Design for putting all this together fabulously.

[Dyslexia Friendly Schools - Louise Selby Dyslexia Specialist](#)



Neurodiversity 101: Building parental resilience while parenting ND children

[Prof. Amanda Kirby MBBS MRCGP PhD FCGI](#)

Parenting a neurodivergent child brings unique challenges and rewards. I can remember lots of times when we have been laughing together as something really funny has happened. However it can be more challenging for most children but especially for those who communicate, process, move differently from their peers. This is particularly true during times of transition or uncertainty.

Building resilience involves nurturing both your well-being and your child's, balancing emotions, and fostering adaptability in the face of change.

Being a parent of ND kids is definitely a journey with a lot of stops and sometimes it a bit more like a rollercoaster with some unplanned pit stops. As a parent we need to ensure we are also building our own ability to be resilient to manage these times especially as we may also be neurodivergent ourselves!

Full article at:

[Neurodiversity 101: Building parental resilience while parenting ND children | LinkedIn](#)

Dyslexia Life Hacks

Ever felt overwhelmed trying to find the right assistive technology for your needs or those of someone you care about? The world of AT can be a maze of options, often leaving people unsure where to begin or what solutions are available.



In this episode [Matthew Head](#) sits down with [Lauren Jeffery](#), Business Development Manager for AT Superstore, a centralised online marketplace for all your assistive technology (AT) needs.

This conversation blends Lauren's passion for neurodiversity, her experiences travelling across South and Central America, and her return to a career in assistive technology.

Lauren shares how AT Superstore aims to demystify the often overwhelming world of assistive technology by offering an easy-to-navigate platform where users can compare products based on their needs, such as neurodiversity, low vision, hearing impairments, or physical disabilities. From her perspective, the real power of AT is its ability to make a tangible difference—whether for students with dyslexia, professionals in the workplace, or families looking for personalised solutions.

We also explore standout innovations like LexiLens glasses, designed to help those with dyslexia or visual stress by stabilising letters on a page, and Tippy Keyboards, a one-handed keyboard for improved accessibility. Lauren highlights the challenges and growth opportunities within the assistive tech industry, particularly in expanding to international markets and providing tailored training for organisations like schools and businesses.

This episode is a testament to the incredible impact assistive technology can have when matched to individual needs. Whether you're a parent, educator, or someone looking for solutions, Lauren's insights remind us that the right tools can open doors to success.

If you're looking for help with choosing the right AT which will work for you, this is the episode you need to listen to!

Listen to the episode here: <https://lnkd.in/edPywHZT>



If you would like to revisit or catch up on any missed sessions, you can [find them here](#).

If you would like any more information on specific solutions we've covered this year, [let us know](#) and we'll be happy to help.

Warm regards,
Team Aventido

Calling all Educators!

Share your insights on school software to shape the future of education.

Participate and get 12 months **FREE** access to the IDL software!

IDL Lancaster University

[International Dyslexia Learning Solutions Ltd](#)

Calling all educators!

Share your insights on school software to shape the future of education.

Participate in a Lancaster University study & get 12 months FREE access to the award-winning IDL Literacy and Numeracy software!

Your voice matters!



Contact us to learn more here  <https://idlsgroup.com/get-in-touch> or email us at hello@idlsgroup.com

Bridget Mather-Scott

Gary and I had a study day!

We discovered an amazing podcast about building maths fluency and why it's important to understand mathematical concepts, not just memorise them!

It's definitely worth a listen... **Building Math Fluency Video Series**

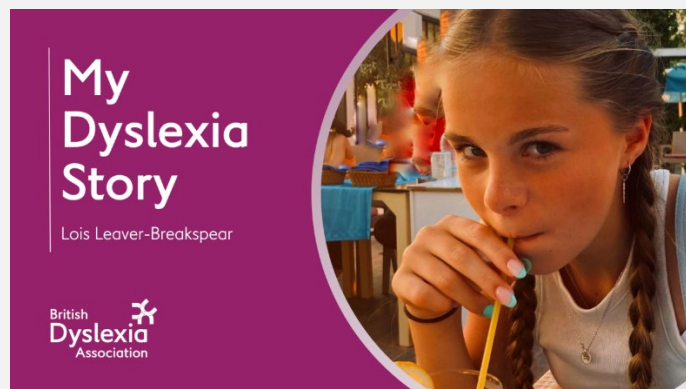
 Billy BeeS Learning 

DYSLEXIA STORIES



I would say that I am a big-picture thinker. Over the years, I have learned to develop coping mechanisms to manage my dyslexia challenges, resulting in skills such as thinking outside the box and resilience. I have encountered many failures and missed opportunities that I may not have experienced without dyslexia. I've learned to embrace these and see it as part of the process. Instead of giving up, I now use it as an opportunity to raise awareness about dyslexia. I hope that systems can be more inclusive and not view dyslexia as a problem to be fixed, but as a strength to be embraced.

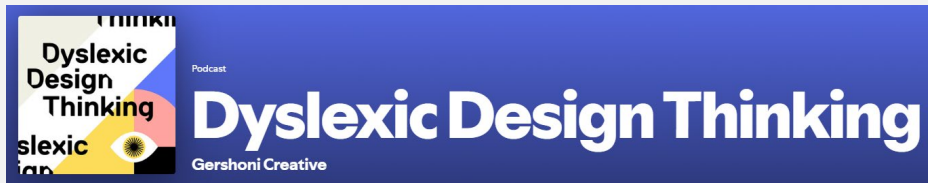
Read her story at: [My Dyslexia Story: Georgina Nnamani - British Dyslexia Association](#)



I was diagnosed with dyslexia and a visual processing disorder when I was in Year 5. My mum and dad knew I was experiencing challenges at school because my reading and spelling ages were so far behind other children. I always loved school and was curious about everything but I did know that I learned differently to other children because I very often couldn't understand the teachers' instructions.

Read her story at: [My Dyslexia Story: Lois Leaver-Breakspear - British Dyslexia Association](#)

More stories at: [Your Stories - British Dyslexia Association](#)



Explore More Stories of Dyslexic Excellence

On [Dyslexic Design Thinking](#), you'll hear from award-winning actors and cinematographers, rocket scientists, political consultants, an ad executive, an expert in inclusive space design and a world-champion kickboxer. All dyslexic, all making big moves throughout the world. You'll also hear from non-dyslexics like the authors of an influential book that's reshaping the way we think about dyslexia.

Join host Gil Gershoni every month for new conversations exploring the intersection of dyslexia and creativity: [Dyslexic Design Thinking](#)



Neurodiversity Stories Shows

The host, Darren Clark, is a dyslexia influencer and award-winning entrepreneur who is changing perceptions for neurodiversity globally through speaking, training and consulting.

Neurodiversity Stories aim is to educate, inspire and motivate people to see a different side to Neurodiversity.



[U2 star Larry Mullen reveals dyscalculia diagnosis | The Independent](#)

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

U2's Larry Mullen reveals impact of dyscalculia diagnosis on drumming

'Counting bars is like climbing Everest,' said drummer



Patoss Ltd

Jamie Oliver Unpacks Dyslexia in a Powerful Channel 4 Documentary – Coming Later This Year


"I just want to look 13-year-old kids – who are struggling with reading – in the eye and say to them, 'You are NOT worthless...'" – Jamie Oliver

Jamie Oliver, one of the UK's most well-known dyslexics, takes on the education system in a compelling new documentary for Channel 4, set to air later this year. Highlighting the challenges faced by 870,000 children with dyslexia across Britain, Jamie will campaign for change to create a fairer, more inclusive education system.

Despite leaving school with just two GCSEs, Jamie's journey proves how we can all thrive when given the right opportunities. This hour-long programme explores how we can reimagine education to celebrate diverse thinking and empower children with dyslexia to unlock their full potential.

Patoss was delighted to take part in early discussions about the documentary last year and is thrilled to see this vital conversation being brought to the forefront.

Let's amplify this important message! Together, we can make a difference for children with dyslexia.

 Don't miss it on Channel 4 – airing later in 2025!

Find out more via:

<https://www.patoss-dyslexia.org/.../jamie-oliver-unpacks...> or see our [#linkinbio](#)

And finally . . .



laughingcolours.com




LIFE BEFORE COMPUTER:


- Window was a square hole in a room..
- Application was something written in paper..
- Mouse was an animal..
- Keyboard was a Piano..
- File was a important office material..
- Hard Drive was a uncomfortable road trip..
- Cut was done with Knife and Paste was done with Glue..
- Web was spider's home..
- Virus was flu..
- Apple and Blackberry were just fruits.



Sometimes in life everything goes smoothly



And sometimes unexpected happens,



The important thing, knowing how to turn problems into opportunities



“ I don't 'suffer' from dyslexia, I live with it and work with it. I suffer from the ignorance of people who think they know what I can and cannot do.”

-Erica Cook, Learning Ally member



Dyslexic children should not lose play time, recess, or lunchtime because they could not finish their work as quickly as the others. This is punishment, not help. **Would you punish a child with a leg brace who couldn't run as fast as classmates?**



Caroline Fowke

Caroline Fowke
Volunteer Administrator & Helpliner
Wiltshire Dyslexia Association

Admin: 01249 655489
caroline.fowke@btinternet.com

Helpline: 07394 617917
wadahelpline@gmail.com

WDA details - see our [flyer](#)



[Wiltshire Dyslexia Association](#)

[Wiltshire Council Dyslexia Leaflet](#)

[British Dyslexia Association](#)

[BDA Guide for Parents](#)

[BDA Employers Guide](#)

[BDA Employees Guide](#)

[Resources - British Dyslexia Association](#)