



Wiltshire Dyslexia Association Special Issue 8 – October 2024



Welcome to a special edition, focussing on the event opportunities during this year's Dyslexia Awareness Month.



Dyslexia Awareness Month in Wiltshire

We have planned three dyslexia awareness events for anyone wanting to know more about dyslexia support and advice available. Please do join us!

FREE Webinar: Dyslexia Friendly Schools in Wiltshire

Find out about the inclusive practice in our dyslexia friendly schools within Wiltshire.

Date: Thursday 10th October
Time: 4pm - 5pm
Audience: School staff

No need to book, click [here](#) to join the webinar on Microsoft Teams on the day.

FREE Webinar: Understanding dyslexia and literacy difficulties

Find out more about dyslexia and how schools identify and support literacy difficulties.

Date: Thursday, 10th October
Time: 6pm - 7pm
Audience: Parents and carers

No need to book, click [here](#) to join the webinar on Microsoft Teams on the day.

Full details also provided at: [SSENS resource page](#) | [Right Choice \(wiltshire.gov.uk\)](#)



Presenters:

Alison Szalay and Rachel Williams
- Specialist Advisory Teachers for SEND (Cognition and Learning),
Wiltshire Specialist SEN Service.

FREE Drop-in exhibition

You are invited to come along to our free drop-in event to find out about a range of resources and the support available in schools and for families in Wiltshire.

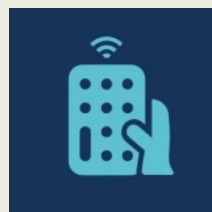
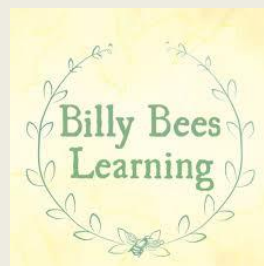
Date: Thursday, 17th October
Time: 10am - 3pm
Audience: Anyone with an interest in dyslexia and literacy difficulties
Location: County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge. BA14 8JN

No need to book, just come along on the day.

Find out about Wiltshire's Dyslexia Friendly Schools programme.



There will be many exhibitors providing support and displaying dyslexia friendly technologies, resources and ideas, including:



AccessAbility Solutions





IDL will be exhibiting at our dyslexia event in Trowbridge on Thursday 17 October, and are very generously offering attendees the opportunity to enter a prize draw:

**£999 voucher to any school that wishes to purchase IDL
or a £200 voucher to any parent who wins the prize**

To enter - visit the IDL stand for information.

IDL would like to offer schools extended trials (up to 6 months) and those who wish to purchase a subscription will be eligible for an additional 20% off from the discounts already offered to schools.

If a parent's child is already using IDL at school, they do not need to purchase a separate subscription from IDL as home use comes included when a school purchases the program.

IDL Literacy

IDL Literacy is an intervention software proven to increase pupils' reading and spelling ages by an average of 11 months after just 26 hours of use. It has been designed to support pupils improve their literacy skills, particularly if they have dyslexia or dyslexic-type difficulties.

IDL Numeracy

IDL Numeracy is an innovative education software that uses a **strand-based** approach to improve ability for low-attaining learners in mathematics. It includes a fully graded course to support the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 maths. It is designed with dyscalculic and low level ability pupils in mind.

IDL Wellbeing

IDL Wellbeing is designed to fit alongside your whole school approach to mental health, toughness and behaviour. Developed alongside a psychologist, IDL Wellbeing uses contemporary theories and mindfulness practices to improve mental health, resilience and equip pupils with essential skills for life.

IDL

Award-winning intervention software
For home-users

IDL Literacy, Numeracy & Wellbeing

For a free trial please contact
matthew.szczesniak
@idlsgroup.com

Scan here to book a free trial!

01524 580665
www.idlsgroup.com

<p>Each Product</p> <p>£99</p> <p>+VAT</p>	<p>2 Product Bundle</p> <p>£150</p> <p>+VAT</p>	<p>3 Product Bundle</p> <p>£200</p> <p>+VAT</p>
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IDL

Award-winning intervention software
Working with Wiltshire schools

20% off IDL Literacy, Numeracy & Wellbeing

For a free trial please contact
matthew.szczesniak
@idlsgroup.com

Scan here to book a free trial!

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www.idlsgroup.com

<p>Each Product</p> <p>£499</p> <p>+VAT</p>	<p>2 Product Bundle</p> <p>£798</p> <p>+VAT</p>	<p>3 Product Bundle</p> <p>£999</p> <p>+VAT</p>
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Wiltshire Council

The Wiltshire events detailed above align with Wiltshire Council priorities to ensure every child can achieve their optimal physical, emotional and mental health and for the people of Wiltshire to be empowered to live full, healthy and enriched lives.

The theme for this year's national [Dyslexia Awareness week](#) is *What's Your Story?* which has 3 key messages:

- Every story is different
- A strong opening sets the scene
- It's never too late to change your story



Dyslexia Friendly Schools in Wiltshire

We currently have 13 Wiltshire schools who have successfully achieved the British Dyslexia Association's nationally recognised Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark. The schools were supported by the Wiltshire Specialist SEN Service (SSENS) on a two-year project to become accredited. Following the success of the project, the Wiltshire Specialist SEN Service (SSENS) team is currently working with a further 15 schools to support them to achieve the quality mark.

More information on the Dyslexia Friendly Schools project is available at: [Dyslexia Friendly Schools](#).



Before the summer holidays, we welcomed over 3000 parents, carers and professionals to our virtual conference, and we can't wait to do it all over again next month. We have lined up fantastic speakers from our Therapists, Microsoft and The ADHD Foundation, offering valuable advice exploring how to support communication, independence, and how assistive technology can support our neurodivergent children.

[Register Now](#)



Dyslexia Awareness Week 7 -13 October 2024 | “What’s Your Story?”

Everyone with dyslexia has their own unique story to tell.
Why not share your story now to help us to:

- Reflect the diversity of lived experience of dyslexia
- Demonstrate the need for early identification, specialist intervention and ongoing support
- Give hope to those struggling with their situation

[Share your story here](#)

We will be sharing some of your stories on our socials throughout the week.

We've also produced some interactive packs with everything you need to know about DAW24 and how you can get involved. Designed to help raise awareness of how to identify and support dyslexic people in your community.

Check out the #DAW24 resources and [download your pack today](#)



[DAW 2024 - Free Webinar: Understanding Dyslexia](#)

Monday 7 October 2024
Join us for an enlightening webinar on **Understanding Dyslexia!**

Dive into the world of dyslexia and gain a deeper understanding of this common learning difficulty.

[Book now](#)



[DAW 2024 - Free Webinar: Multisensory Learning](#)

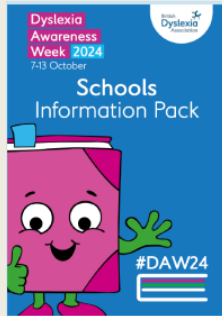
Wednesday 9 October 2024
Join us for an engaging webinar on **Multisensory Learning!**

Discover the power of engaging multiple senses to enhance learning experiences across all age groups.

[Book now](#)

Downloadable information and resources pack

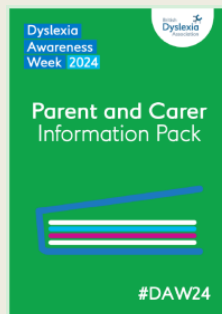
[Resources - British Dyslexia Association](#)



Schools

Our interactive schools pack is designed to support teachers in the classroom. With information about dyslexia, some classroom activities for you to download and share, and some suggestions on how to talk to your class about dyslexia.

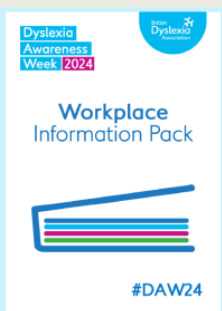
[Visit here](#)



Parent and Carers

Our interactive pack has been designed for parents and carers of dyslexic children and those who think that their child might be dyslexic. It includes information on spotting the signs of dyslexia, how to talk to a child about dyslexia and some hints and tips for supporting a dyslexic child at home and school.

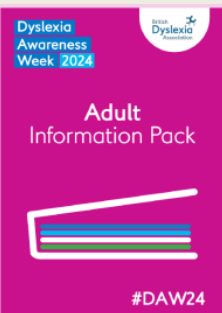
[Visit here](#)



Workplace

Get involved with #DAW24 and help your workplace to become dyslexia friendly. Our interactive pack is designed for employees and employers to use to increase awareness and support for dyslexic individuals in the workplace.

[Visit here](#)



Adults

Want to find out more about dyslexia or raise awareness in your local community? Download a copy of our interactive resource pack for adults. The pack includes information and top tips to support adults and students, plus artwork to use on your socials to show your support for #DAW24.

[Visit here](#)



Top Tips Booklets

[Top Tips for Parents](#)

See also [BDA Guide for Parents](#)

[Top Tips for Students](#)

See also [BDA Employees Guide](#)

[Top Tips for Adults](#)

[Top Tips for Employers](#)

See also [BDA Employers Guide](#)

Dyslexia Awareness Month is creeping up on us! To celebrate this important month, I'm thrilled to announce the re-launch of my **FREE** monthly webinar series, kicking off with a special event on **October 1st from 7:30-8:30 pm.**

📌 Dyslexia - Tips, Tricks, and Strategies to Support Learning

If you're a parent or an educator, this is an event you won't want to miss!

Whether you are new to understanding dyslexia or have been on this journey for a while, this webinar will give you the latest tools and strategies you can implement right away to help your child or student succeed. Numbers are limited, so early booking is essential! 🚫

What you'll learn:

- ✅ Proven strategies to help dyslexic learners feel more confident and achieve success in school and at home 🏠🏡
- ✅ Actionable tips to support reading, writing, and comprehension, starting immediately 📖👉
- ✅ How to make the most of assistive technology and apps to improve learning 🧩💻
- ✅ Techniques to promote independence and self-confidence in children with dyslexia 🌱💪
- ✅ Personalised advice during an interactive Q&A session to address your concerns 💬?

This is your chance to gain practical, real-world strategies that can be used the very next day to create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

☀️ Whether you're a teacher looking for better ways to differentiate your instruction or a parent wanting to empower your child, this webinar will give you the tools and confidence you need.

Why attend?

- 🎓 Expert insights from a leading special educational needs practitioner and dyslexia advocate
- 🧑🏫 Tailored advice for both parents and educators — no matter your level of experience
- 📈 Gain confidence in helping dyslexic learners succeed in their day-to-day learning
- 🆓 **It's completely free**, but spaces are limited — so don't delay!

Reserve your spot now! 👉 Here is the link now to grab your free ticket. [CLICK HERE](#)

Let's work together to make a positive impact during **Dyslexia Awareness Month.** ❤️ Together, we can ensure every child with dyslexia is set up for **SUCCESS!**

An invitation to our WDA members to join
Croydon Dyslexia Association
for their event on
Wednesday 9 October at 7pm on Zoom

Reading and fluency

A talk by Claire Harvey, Head of Education at
Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre



Claire trained as a teacher, eventually becoming SEN Team Leader in a large primary school. She qualified for OCR Levels 3, 5, and 7 at Helen Arkell. Claire has seen specialist support make a significant difference to her dyslexic son's academic journey and self-esteem. Her work as a specialist teacher and assessor has further confirmed her commitment to making a real difference to the lives of learners with SpLD.

Claire has worked at Helen Arkell since 2017 as a tutor and lecturer (on the Level 5 Diploma course) and also as a specialist assessor. She's given many presentations to schools and organisations (including the Dyslexia Show and TES SEND Show) and delivered the renowned Parents' HELP course.

She will talk for an hour (**7-8pm**) and then answer questions. Her talk will cover the following:

- Why reading can be problematic for dyslexic learners
- The potentially damaging impact of weak reading accuracy and fluency
- The types of errors commonly seen
- Practical strategies and activities that could help improve reading accuracy and fluency

If you would like to join the meeting on Zoom, please register in advance by emailing your name and email address to cda.meetings@gmail.com

The access details will be sent by email on **Monday 7 October**.



Email from Mary Wilcox, Product Specialist for [ReadSpeaker TextAid](#)

It's Dyslexia Awareness Month so I'm focussing the next ReadSpeaker TextAid webinar on how to support people who have traits associated with dyslexia including:

- Confusing similar words
- Find it hard to scan and skim
- Reading slowly
- Need to reread to understand
- Difficulty in focusing and concentration
- Mental overload
- Avoiding certain types of work or study
- Having poor self-esteem

So come along to this 30-minute webinar on [Wednesday 2nd October at 10 AM.](#)

By the end of the session, you'll have a better understanding of the many benefits of ReadSpeaker TextAid at school, college, university and in the workplace. I'll send you a copy of the presentation, and links to useful videos.

Please include your job role when you register so I can send the most appropriate information.



Let's kick off this year's Dyslexia Awareness Week together at my FREE online masterclass in Dyslexia Awareness.

Sunday 6th October at 8pm

Let me help you to raise dyslexic awareness in your workplace, educational setting or even amongst your friends. I will be discussing what dyslexia actually is, what it looks like in everyday life and how you can help and support others with it.

Don't worry if you can't make it, everyone who registers will be sent a recording to listen back to later. Sound good? Why not forward this email on to anyone in your inbox who you think might benefit and help us all raise the profile of Dyslexia this Dyslexia Awareness Week 2024.

Register here:

[https://anotherwayrounddyslexiasupport.as.me/schedule/51c0212c/?appointmentTypes\[\]=69006278](https://anotherwayrounddyslexiasupport.as.me/schedule/51c0212c/?appointmentTypes[]=69006278)



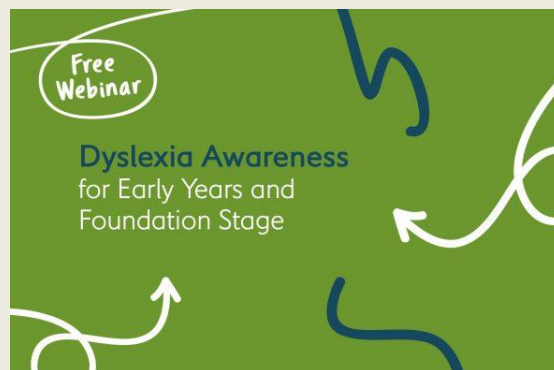
Don't forget to tune in to Jo's Weekly podcast – Dyslexic Life With Jo Rees that has an exciting new guest each week:

[Dyslexic Life with Jo Rees THE PODCAST! Podcast Series – Apple Podcasts](#)

[Free Webinar - Dyslexia Awareness For Early Years Foundations Stage \(EYFS\) Autumn Term](#)

Thursday 24 October 2024, Online
Dyslexia Awareness For EYFS webinar is aimed at educators and parents or carers of children in the Early Years and Foundation Stage.

[Book now](#)



See also these webinars taking place later in the term:

[Free Webinar - Dyslexia Awareness For Primary-Aged Children Autumn Term](#)

Tuesday 5 November 2024, Online
Dyslexia Awareness For Primary-Aged Children webinar is aimed at educators and parents or carers of children at primary school.

[Book now](#)



[Free Webinar - Dyslexia Awareness For Secondary-Aged students Autumn Term](#)

Monday 18 November 2024, Online
Dyslexia Awareness For Secondary-Aged Students webinar is aimed at educators and parents or carers of students at Secondary school.

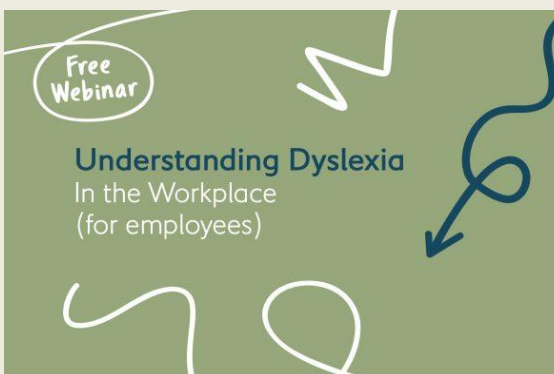
[Book now](#)



[Free Webinar - Dyslexia Awareness for Workplace - understanding dyslexia \(employees\)](#)

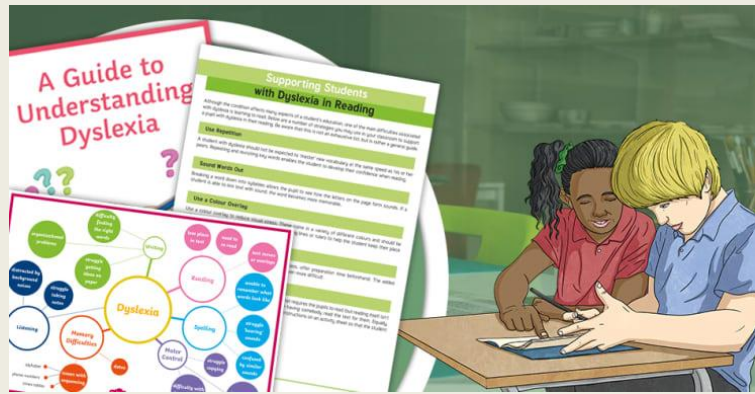
Tuesday 10 December 2024, Online
Join Amanda Hornby in her latest workplace webinar for employees. Understand dyslexia and explore the emotional toll it may have on mental health, addressing self-esteem and anxiety. Understanding this emotional landscape is crucial for effective support and fostering a positive mindset.

[Book now](#)





Dyslexia Awareness Week | October 2024



74 Top "Dyslexia Awareness Week" Teaching Resources curated for you . . . including:



Dyslexia Awareness Week PowerPoint

★★★★★ ∨ 2 reviews



Dyslexia Strengths Poster

★★★★★ ∨ 12 reviews



Dyslexia Awareness Celebrities Photo Pack

★★★★★ ∨ 7 reviews

🕒 Last downloaded on 26 Oct 2023



See Dyslexia Differently

★★★★★ ∨ 11 reviews



Dyslexia Acrostic Poem Poster

★★★★★ ∨ 3 reviews



Go Red for Dyslexia Assembly PowerPoint: Dyslexia Awareness

★★★★☆ ∨ 1 review



Supporting Dyslexia in KS1 Resource Pack

★★★★★ ∨ 20 reviews



CfE First Level Dyslexia Week Awareness Resource Pack

★★★★★ ∨ 1 review



What Is Dyslexia? A4 Display Poster

★★★★★ ∨ 6 reviews



Dyslexia awareness goes global with the support of Go Red

What is Go Red for Dyslexia?

Go Red for Dyslexia is a worldwide campaign supported by **Succeed With Dyslexia** that takes place during Dyslexia Awareness Month in October.

It aims to change the narrative for people with dyslexia and low literacy. It's focused on raising awareness of dyslexia and working to end the stigma, and showing the world all of the amazing things that individuals with dyslexia can do.

We're all familiar with the colour red. It's always associated with mistakes, corrections, crossing out and disapproval. Well, we thought it was time to change the narrative and take back the feelings of shame and low self-esteem so many dyslexic learners feel. Since 2019, Go Red For Dyslexia has helped spread awareness for dyslexia across the globe by encouraging people to turn anything and everything red. Whether it's painting your nails, wearing a piece of clothing, or even lighting up a building, we've seen an influx of support from a wide range of individuals, businesses, and institutions.

We're calling on you to join the campaign any day in October.

Head over to our [Get Involved](#) page to see how you can start your dyslexia awareness journey and get both you and your community involved today.

Whether you're going red in class, at home, at work or out and about in the world, we'd love to see it. Join the conversation and share how you Go Red on social media using #GoRedForDyslexia

Get Involved [Resource Pack | Go Red \(goredfordyslexia.org\)](#)

How schools can get involved

If you're an educator, a tutor, or work closely with students and schools, we'd love for you to dedicate some time to talk about inclusivity with children and young people by...

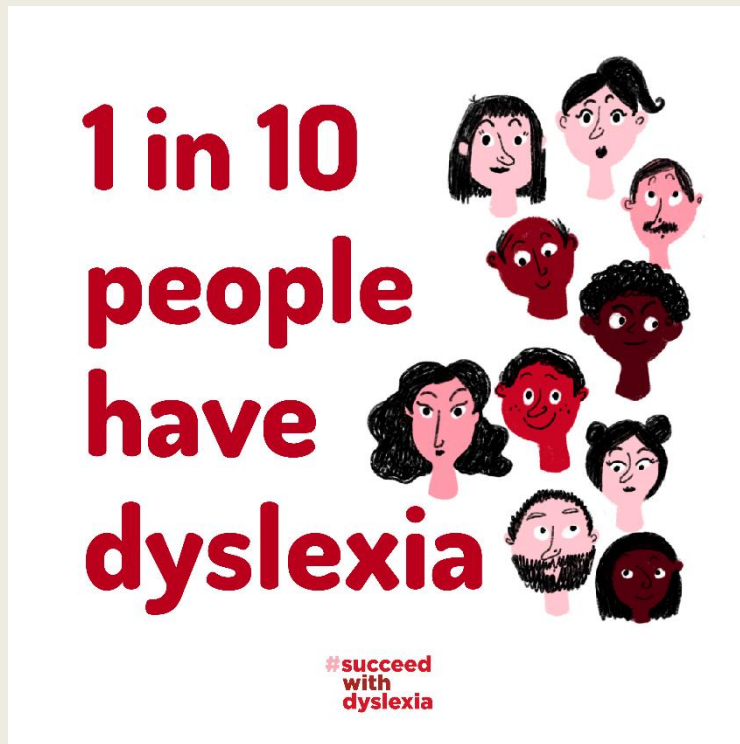
- Organising an assembly about the importance of inclusive thinking
- Making one lesson an opportunity for a 'no pen outcome' using our online resources
- Red-themed bake sales or non-uniform days to raise funds for your local dyslexia association



How workplaces can get involved

If you're a business, we'd love to hear about the work you do in promoting inclusivity throughout your workforce by...

- Hosting a dyslexia awareness event
- Transforming your virtual meeting backgrounds red
- Sharing our free online resources in your staff room
- Invite SWD in for a spotlight session of how you can best support dyslexic colleagues in your workplace with our [training services](#)





BBC 500 words 2024 opened for entries this week.

The competition encourages children of all abilities to enter, reminding them that “spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked – it's all about creativity!” [Find out more](#)

TV Chef and now children's author Jamie Oliver shares his advice for writing a 500 Words story with dyslexia.

Dyslexia can present challenges for younger writers, but did you know that some of the most successful children's authors are dyslexic too?

Authors such as Sally Gardner (Maggot Moon) Dav Pikey (Captain Underpants) are dyslexic, as was the late Roald Dahl. These authors demonstrate how you can still write gripping stories and be a successful author, despite facing reading and writing challenges.

According to the British Dyslexia Association, around 10% of the population has dyslexia. This translates to 1.1 million children in the UK that are dyslexic, which is approximately three learners in each average class of 30 pupils.

500 Words is a competition for everyone, so we've caught up with Jamie Oliver and Benjamin Zephaniah - who both have dyslexia - for their advice on writing stories and overcoming their challenges.

Jamie Oliver

Earlier this year, Jamie Oliver told BBC Breakfast what affect having dyslexia had on him: "I'm dyslexic, so words to me have always been quite scary".

Despite this, Jamie is one of the most successful non-fiction authors in the country - thanks to his cookbooks - which have been published in 96 countries around the world. He has recently turned his hand to writing fiction and published his first children's book 'Billy and the Giant Adventure'.

When it comes to children with dyslexia, Jamie said: "with a lot of kids that struggle at school, they have incredible imaginations, but they can't get it down on paper and obviously with technology now, even my first three cookbooks, I wrote on dictaphone, each chapter was a tape and then I could design it and make it work".

Jamie has shared his advice for children who want to enter the 500 Words competition but have difficulties when writing because of their dyslexia.

Play the video for Jamie Oliver's top tips at [Find out more](#).



Benjamin Zephaniah

Poet, lyricist, musician and children's author, Benjamin Zephaniah, is another successful dyslexic author who has shared his advice for entering the competition.

Similar to Jamie Oliver, Benjamin first noticed his difficulties reading and writing at a younger age. Benjamin believes dyslexia can be a strength; writing for The Guardian, he said: "Kids come up to me and say, "I'm dyslexic too," and I say to them, "use it to your advantage, see the world differently. Us dyslexic people, we've got it going on – we are the architects. We are the designers".

Speaking to the BBC as part of the 500 Words World Book Day launch in March, Benjamin Zephaniah shared his advice for writing stories with dyslexia.

View short video clip at [Find out more](#).



Advice from the British Dyslexia Association

At the British Dyslexia Association, we encourage all learners to improve their literacy skills and storytelling is an important part of that! It is a fantastic way for children to practice their reading, writing and spelling whatever level they are working at.

Learners with dyslexia can be extremely creative and will have wonderful stories to tell. We hope that adults working with dyslexic children all around the UK will encourage their learners to enter the competition.

Our top tips are:

1. Plan your story – You could use a mind map or story mountain to help you.
2. Tell your story – Verbally share it with someone else and use props if you want to.
3. Record your story – Record your story in a phone, tablet or other device.
4. Write your story – Don't worry about your spelling or handwriting, let the ideas flow and edit afterwards.
5. Enjoy your story – Sit back and relax whilst others enjoy what you have written!

Need more inspiration?

Click here for more information on 500 Words:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Dyslexia: Make a Difference

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teacher-support/articles/zjr48xs>

How to submit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk#zsfk239>



Who can enter?

How do I submit my story?

Advice for teachers

What happens next?

500 Words' marking criteria

What makes a brilliant 500 Words story?

Newsletter produced by:

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WDA details - see our [flyer](#)



[Wiltshire Dyslexia Association](#)