

WILTSHIRE NEWS



Wiltshire schools lead the way in dyslexia-friendly education!

Twenty-three local schools - teaching more than 10,000 children - have now earned the British Dyslexia Association's (BDA) Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark, a huge achievement that highlights their dedication to making learning inclusive for everyone.

This isn't just a shiny badge. It's the result of months of hard work from teachers, teaching assistants, governors, parents, and students, all working together to create classrooms where every child - dyslexic or not - can thrive.

What is the Quality Mark?

The BDA Dyslexia-Friendly Quality Mark is a real gold standard. It means a school has met high standards for supporting students with dyslexia, from early identification to tailored teaching strategies. It's about making sure no one gets left behind.

The Wiltshire Specialist SEN Service (SSENS) team were instrumental in helping schools reach this milestone. They provided training, support, and guidance every step of the way.

A spokesperson from SSENS shared:

"We've seen incredible commitment from schools. During our visits, we witnessed skilled teaching, meaningful relationships, and calm, nurturing environments where learning differences are truly valued."

A community effort

Caroline Fowke from the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association couldn't be prouder:

"We're thrilled for the 15 schools being celebrated at the event - and for all the others who've completed the process. These awards show just how committed our schools are to supporting every learner."

And Ellen Broomé, CEO of the BDA, added:

"With at least three children in every classroom affected by dyslexia, this kind of inclusive approach benefits everyone. These Wiltshire schools are leading the way - councils up and down the country should look to follow this example of how to take a whole council approach to being dyslexia friendly."

Time to celebrate!

A third of the schools across the United Kingdom with this quality mark are now in Wiltshire. These sixteen schools are the latest to receive the Quality Mark:

The New Forest Primary School
Ludgershall Castle Primary School
Winterslow Primary School
The Stonehenge School
The Minster C.E. Primary School
Bemerton St John Primary School
Holbrook Primary School
Springfields Academy
Dauntsey Academy Primary School
Sarum St Paul's C.E. (VA) Primary School
Noremarsh Junior School
The John of Gaunt School
Kingdown School
Corsham Primary School Pound Pill Site
Corsham Primary School Broadwood Site
Harnham Junior School



(For more information and a list of schools holding the Quality Mark, visit <https://localoffer.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/7062/Dyslexia-Friendly-Schools>)

It was great to see representatives of the schools at a celebratory event at Trowbridge County Hall. We were also joined by Councillor Jon Hubbard (Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills), who shared his own experiences of growing up with dyslexia – and cut the cake donated by the WDA!

Cllr Jon Hubbard said:

"As someone who is dyslexic myself, I understand firsthand the challenges these young learners face every day. That's why seeing our schools achieve the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark means so much to me personally. These schools are going above and beyond to break down the barriers that can make learning feel impossible - barriers I remember all too well from my own school days. Their dedication to creating truly inclusive environments where dyslexic children feel understood, supported and valued gives me tremendous hope. Every child deserves to discover their potential without being held back by learning differences, and these schools are making that a reality."

Professor Joel Talcott delivered a presentation about his work developing a new universal screener being piloted with a selection of schools in the county.

(More details at: [UCL research features in Jamie Oliver dyslexia documentary | UCL News - UCL](#))

Sarah Lennon and **Elizabeth Beck** shared their words of encouragement, and we are grateful to them for allowing us to publish them here:

I am dyslexic, I have walked in your shoes.

I know the utter frustration of having incredible thoughts, but still trying to find your pencil case when others are on paragraph two.

Not being able to spell what you what to write.

Feeling somehow less then.

Just know you are not. Your brain is beautiful and incredible. I promise you will flourish.

We have got you.

And honestly, You have got this.

Sarah

A Poem for Dyslexic Students

by Elizabeth Beck BA (Hons) DTS MCTSI, Trading Standards Officer, Public Protection

Always remember to try your best,
Always remember you are different, not less,
Always remember in fact you are more,
With so many ways you can even the score.

Your brain works with so many more connections than most,
That means you may take a longer route to get to the same post,
But, that's an advantage because you understand things better,
And if you can't spell, does that really matter?

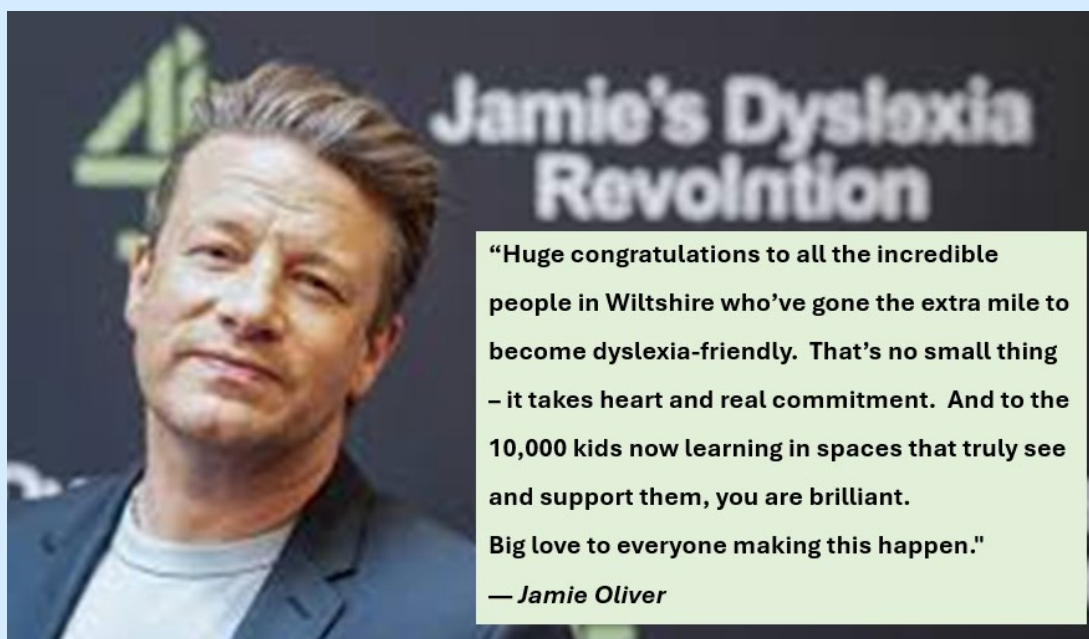
Sometimes you might need colourful glasses,
Or extra time in exams, to think of the answers
Whatever you find difficult, remember this:
Us oldies went before you, and we can say YOU GOT THIS!!

Sometimes you might feel so alone in this world,
And other people can seem faceless and cold,
But remember you are never alone, find a friend, do...
Because around 10% of the population are the same as you!

So, always remember to try your best,
Always remember you are different, not less,
Always remember in fact you are more,
With so many ways you can even the score.

Lizzy

There was even a special message from **Jamie Oliver**:



If you are an educator and interested in finding out about how your school can become dyslexia-friendly, you can find further information [here](#)

(More details from Wiltshire Council at <https://orlo.uk/ajLqh>)

Alison Szalay • Specialist advisory teacher and educational consultant

Fantastic to see Jamie Oliver's dyslexia documentary on TV, and to have the opportunity to be involved. Even more fantastic is the buzz around dyslexia today. And it's needed!

I have been a specialist teacher for 20 years and have learned that there are lots of myths around dyslexia and we still have lots to learn.

But what we do know is that the better we know our pupils, the better we can support them. And our willingness to adapt the way we teach, in response to our pupils' strengths and needs, has the power to make a positive difference.

Jamie Oliver is spot on. Screening and training are the way forward, including both initial and in-service training.

So what next? Moving forward at pace is the Universal Classroom, created by Professors Jo Van Herwigen and Joel Talcott, which includes screening for children in Year One and then signposts to evidence based interventions. Let's see if we can get this into schools asap.



[Watch Jamie's Dyslexia Revolution | Stream free on Channel 4](#)

Jamie Oliver explores the challenges and issues faced by thousands of school children with dyslexia who are left behind in an archaic education system and asks: what more can be done?

[Jamie's Dyslexia Revolution review – a lifetime of pain has led to this | Television | The Guardian](#)

Thank you to our supporters who help raise funds through easyfundraising. We have just received a payout of £17.96.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us for free on #easyfundraising. Your continued support means the world to us! If you've not signed up yet, please join and you can raise free donations for the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association every time you shop online this year!

Over 8,000 retailers like eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Etsy, Tesco and Just Eat will donate at no extra cost to you.

Raise funds for us for FREE

with easyfundraising

Join as our supporter today at:
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Just search for:

Wiltshire Dyslexia Association

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them

Start at the easyfundraising website or app → Click out to where you'd like to shop → Checkout: prices are exactly the same! → The retailer sends a % of your spend to easyfundraising → They pass it on to us :)

Plus, you'll get...

- Exclusive retailer offers
- Competitions
- A warm feeling inside!

Over **£60m** raised for UK good causes

£0 extra cost to anyone

Plus, sign up today and we could win a £500 donation:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/wiltshiredyslexia/0XRQZC/c2s/mQ7oHj9a/CE947/facebook/52.09>



June 2025 APPG - Teacher Training: Getting it Right

The APPG for Dyslexia met in Westminster on 9 June to discuss **'Teacher Training: Getting it Right'**. (Parliamentary briefing: [Demand Support for Dyslexic Learners](#))

The meeting, chaired by Juliet Campbell, MP for Broxtowe was attended by MPs and Peers, who listened to evidence from dyslexia charities, a teacher training provider and the National Education Union that an ambitious programme of change is needed across education to ensure that all teachers are equipped to make every lesson inclusive so that every dyslexic child has the support their need to thrive.

The meeting concluded with the BDA calling for a National Dyslexia Strategy.

Attendees

- **Sarah Rappaport**, Campaigns Manager, Jamie Oliver Group
- **Caroline Bateman**, Senior Lecturer, Kingston University, Specialist Dyslexia Tutor
- **Charlotte Noble**, CEO of 1 in 10
- **Ros McNeil**, Assistant General Secretary, National Education Union
- **Ellen Broomé**, CEO of British Dyslexia Association.

[Read the Meeting Minutes here](#)

For further information, email policy@bdadyslexia.org.uk

On LinkedIn, Ellen Broomé, CEO of the BDA reported that the “APPG meeting on dyslexia was a powerful reminder of the momentum building for real in how we support learners.

The focus was on teacher training, and we heard insightful contributions from Caroline Bateman from [Kingston University](#), Ros McNeil from [National Education Union](#), Caroline Noble from [1 in 10 dyslexia](#), and our very own brilliant Helen Godsall, who brought the lived experience from children, young people and parent/carers that grounds all we do. And all expertly chaired by [Juliet Campbell](#) MP.

We were delighted to welcome so many MPs and peers, all engaged and eager to be part of the solution. The discussion was rich, constructive, and full of urgency – there's a clear appetite for action.

With 1 in 10 children affected by dyslexia - that's three in every classroom - we must make sure that ALL teachers are equipped with the knowledge and tools to identify and support children. Thank you to everyone who attended. Let's keep the pressure up!"



Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The Summer Reading Challenge is for children aged four to 11 to read six books (or the equivalent) over nine weeks of the summer - in return for various prizes. The free challenge will run in **Wiltshire libraries from Saturday 5 July to Saturday 6 September.**

From Monday 21 July children can start to collect stickers (and continue to register).

Children must be library members to take part – it's free and easy to join, for more information visit: wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-join-the-library.

The 2025 theme is: **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**, which will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature. When registering children will receive their own Story Garden sticker booklet to record their reading and as they finish reading books – will receive stickers for each one read, plus a certificate a badge on completion.

Although the challenge is to read six books, there is flexibility in this number, especially for children who struggle with reading or read longer books. Children can read any books of their choice; they don't have to be linked to the theme and they can read/listen to eBooks and audiobooks as well. It's all free and can make a real difference to a child's motivation and enjoyment of reading.

Story Garden Collection

Books on the official 'Story Garden Book Collection' list are available to reserve and borrow for free from any Wiltshire library. The list includes a mix of fiction (picture books, early readers and middle grade titles), non-fiction, poetry and graphic novels, plus several dyslexia-friendly books.

Children can also sign up online at Summer Reading Challenge where they can use the Book Sorter to discover new books, find fun reading activities and active challenges, play games, watch videos and write book reviews.

For children who want a further challenge and those older than 11 we have the Story Adventurers' Club, a personal reading challenge where children set their own reading goals, the target to read 100 books. For children aged under 4, we have a fun family book sharing challenge called 'Story Sharers'.

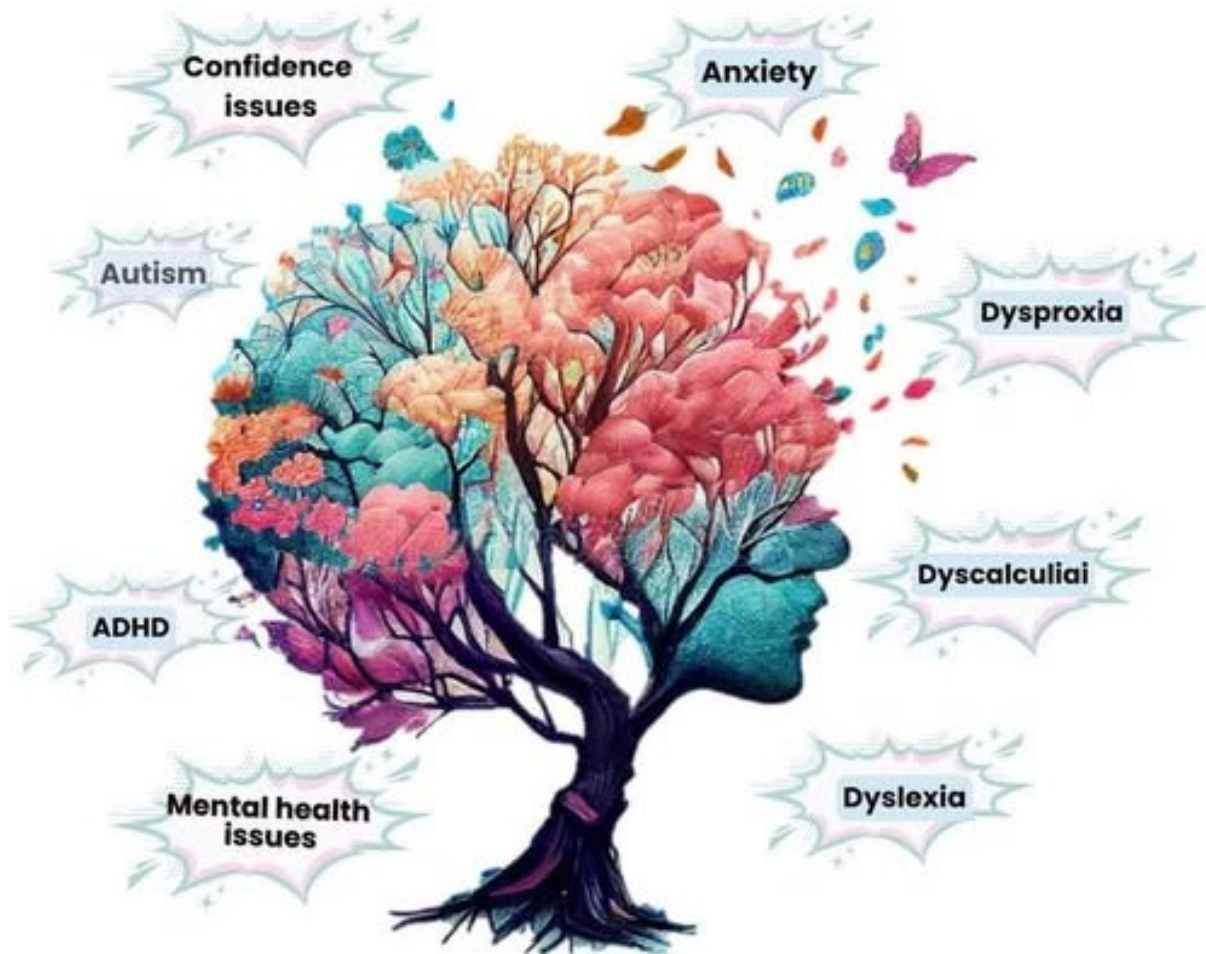
For more information contact your local Wiltshire library or email libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk



CHIPPENHAM Community Hub

1 Gladstone Parade Chippenham SN15 3BS

CHIPPENHAM COMMUNITY CORNER COACHING



If you are you 18+ and can identify with any of these get in touch
We offer personal one-to-one courses designed just for you

FOR MORE INFORMATION POP INTO THE HUB

or

Telephone 079490579470

Email enquiries@chippenhamhub.co.uk



Discover Digital Summer Festival - FREE

Registrations are now open for the [Family Fund](#) free online Discover Digital Summer Festival.

The festival starts on **Tuesday 29th July and will run for three weeks until Thursday 14th August.**



It's a friendly and fun online space where children and young people can develop new skills and socialise during the summer holidays, from the comfort of home. The workshops last one hour and range from creating music, designing comic strips and mindful drawings to discovering the world of coding and making movie-themed posters.

This year all the workshops are multiplatform. This means that children and young people can join the sessions from any device: Android tablet, iPad, smartphone or PC. Families can book on as many sessions as they like and siblings are also welcome to join.

For more information and to book workshops please click [HERE](#).



Inclusive SEND Festival

Saturday 20th September
10:00am - 6:00pm

Wiltshire Music Centre
Ashley Road, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1DZ

Wiltshire Council is excited to share details of **SENDFEST**, a **FREE** inclusive day festival dedicated to celebrating and empowering young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

SENDFEST aims to bring together families, schools, support services, local organisations, and the wider community for a vibrant day of accessible activities, interactive workshops, live performances, and creative experiences, all tailored for young people of all abilities.

Highlights include:

- Archery
- Face painting and craft zones
- A high-energy silent disco
- Live music and performances
- A dedicated sensory space for regulation and calm
- Refreshments and chill-out areas
- Information from Wiltshire Council Staff members and local organisations about SEND Support.
- A chance for children and families to get involved in shaping SEND Services within Wiltshire.

If you have any questions about the event or for more information, please email voice@wiltshire.gov.uk. To book your free tickets, please click [HERE](#).

Do you feel your child or young person might need extra help at school?

This new video explains how to work with your child's school to build a strong support system, ensuring they get the help they need. Learn about the different types of support available in all education settings. For more information, visit the [Support for SEND - Local Offer](#) and explore the Support in School pages.

[Watch the video](#)

Local Offer Jargon Buster: Making language easier for everyone

We've been listening closely to parents, carers, young people, and professionals from education, health, and social care (SEND). As a result, we're updating the Local Offer Jargon Buster with simpler, more family-friendly language.

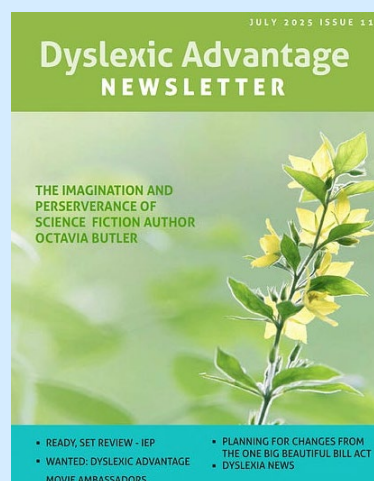
Find out more - [Jargon Buster - Local Offer](#)

OTHER NEWS



Link to the June Newsletter :

<https://joom.ag/WUsd>



Link to the July Newsletter:

<https://joom.ag/A6wd>

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

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



[Summer newsletter](#)

Welcome to the first of what we hope will be a twice-yearly newsletter for our many friends and supporters.

[Thousands of children with SEND to benefit from assistive tech - GOV.UK](#)

Government launches innovative pilot with up to £1.7m available to help children with SEND achieve and thrive at their local school.

Thousands of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will benefit from more support in the classroom, as government launches an innovative, new pilot to trial assistive technology in up to 4,000 schools. Backed by up to £1.7m, 'lending libraries' will be set up in up to 32 local authorities and will enable schools in the area to borrow and trial a range of devices to suit their pupils' needs.

Click [here](#) for full press release.



Spotlight on a new UK-Government-backed AT report.

A new report from the University of Dundee, commissioned by the UK Department for Education, highlights the urgent need to equip educators and support staff with the skills to use assistive technology (AT) effectively.

Launched in Parliament last month, the report presents a **competency framework to guide AT training—helping teachers, therapists, and IT staff understand how to select, integrate, and support AT in the classroom. The goal? To ensure every learner can access the curriculum and thrive.**

"Children and young people with disabilities are currently unable to access the curriculum when those around them do not have the skills to harness the potential of digital assistive technology." Professor Annalu Waller.

This is a significant step toward national standards in AT training—and a call to action for our sector.

You can [read the official press release on the University of Dundee website](#), or [read the full report](#) on Gov.UK.



DfE announces pilot of SEND assistive technology lending libraries

We are delighted that The Department for Education (DfE) has partnered with CENMAC to advise on a pilot scheme to trial assistive technology in up to 32 local authorities in the Change Programme, potentially enabling 4,000 schools to borrow and trial a range of assistive technology to meet the individual needs of pupils.

[> Find out more about this exciting initiative](#)

The announcement states that participating local authorities will be named over the summer, with rollout expected to begin at the start of the new school year.



Earlier this month, IPSEA launched a new national campaign, [Save Our Children's Rights](#), in collaboration with Special Needs Jungle, SOS!SEN, and other organisations across the SEND sector.

We launched with [an open letter published in The Guardian](#) signed by over 100 SEND campaigners, academics and public figures - including Chris Packham, Christine McGuiness and Carrie Grant - warning of the serious risk to the legal rights of children and young people with SEND, and generating widespread national media attention on the issue.

It's been widely reported that the government is considering reforms to the SEND system which could remove EHC plans and weaken children's legal rights.

Removing or restricting legal rights won't reduce children's needs - **it will simply make it harder for them to get the right support**. Our campaign calls on government ministers to keep the existing SEND legal framework, including EHC plans, when they publish their plans for SEND reform in the autumn.

The law isn't the problem.

The problem is that the law is too often not complied with.

You can help protect children and young people's rights by taking action today:

- [Write to your MP](#) using our template letter to explain why legal rights matter
- [Sign the petition](#) already backed by over 118,000 people
- [Join our photo campaign](#) to show how legal rights have made a difference to your family

New blog:

We've heard all sorts of things about EHC plans recently - here are the facts

At IPSEA we're used to people making all sorts of rash statements about SEN and EHC plans, but even we have been surprised by the extent of misinformation we have seen shared and in the press recently.

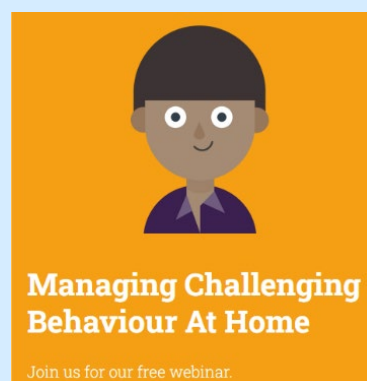
So, to make things clear, our legal team member Kate has written a new blog that breaks down some myths and misconceptions. She explains clearly what an EHC plan is - and what it absolutely isn't.

[Read the blog >>](#)

FREE WEBINAR

Managing Challenging Behaviour At Home

Have you got a question or two about how to manage challenging behaviour? Join us for our surviving the summer holidays webinar with Colette Longden, Parenting Team Trainer at The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity, to gain practical strategies and insights to support your child.



Supporting parents & carers

- Date: Wednesday 13th August
- Time: 10am - 11am

In this webinar, Colette will explore:

- ✓ Why children exhibit challenging behaviours and how to recognise their own triggers and responses
- ✓ How to be proactive not reactive, whilst validating emotions and building connection and trust
- ✓ How to identify when to seek professional support and develop personal coping strategies for stressful moments

[Register Your Free Place](#)



Community Virtual Get-together Adults
Tuesday 19 August 2025, Online

BDA's Virtual Get-togethers give adults with dyslexia (or possible dyslexia) a space to chat, share ideas and support each other.

[Book now](#)



Community Virtual Get-together Families
Wednesday 20 August 2025, Online

BDA's Virtual Get-togethers give families of children/young people with dyslexia (or possible dyslexia / literacy difficulties) a space to chat, share ideas and support each other.

[Book now](#)

the Happy Confident club

Join Nadim, CEO, parenting coach & best-selling author and special guests

FREE Live Webinar

BACK TO SCHOOL ANXIETY
HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE THROUGH CHANGE

Thursday 21st August
12 - 1pm UK time

Can't make it?
 Sign up for the recording

Elaine Halligan
 Parenting Coach, Author & Speaker

Laura Crowley
 EBSA Expert & Autism Consultant

Jenni Honeyben
 Parenting Coach

I know most of you by now will have children on their summer break, and going back to school at the end of August/ start of September may seem a lifetime away.

However if you have done any work with us here at [The Parent Practice](#), you'll be aware of the importance of setting up for success and not ambushing your children when change is afoot.

Preparing ahead of time is one of the greatest gifts you can give you child.

I'm delighted to let you know I have been invited as a guest speaker to join a panel with Nadim Saad from The Happy Confident Company,

Back to School Anxiety
21st August 2025
12pm

We'll be discussing simple practical, evidence-based advice and tools that you can implement into your home life immediately. The panel will explore how to support children who may be feeling anxious about the return to school and other transitions.

What you'll learn:

- How to confidently discuss your child's fears and anxious thoughts
- Effective strategies to support emotional school avoidance and fear of change
- Practical tips to prepare your child for a smooth return to school

[Register now to secure your place](#)



AYOA Positive Dyslexia
presents



Positive Dyslexia Conferences
2025

Dyslexia Conference Twickenham 18th September



Lynn Lovell

Keynote speaker



**Louise
Selby**

Keynote speaker



**Dr Sarah
Mosely**

Keynote speaker



Jo Rees

Keynote speaker



**Sam
Garner**

Keynote speaker

Register

The Exchange



Opened by the
CEO of the BDA



Rob Jennings

Thursday 18 September 2025, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, London TW1 1BE

Full details at: <https://bit.ly/Twickenhamdyslexia>



Early Bird tickets end 30 July.

Special offer for the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association!

**Add CODE BDA at the checkout to receive 10% discount
on any ticket price.**

Book your ticket at <https://lnkd.in/eUEEuPRw>.



Join Us for the 4th International Dysgraphia Awareness Day (IDAD)

Date: Monday, 6th October 2025

Theme: "Let's Play & Write!"

We're proud to be hosting a global awareness event that celebrates handwriting, neurodiversity, and inclusive learning. Our current lineup of passionate advocates brings incredible energy and insight, and we're now welcoming a few more expert voices to round out the programme.

Are you passionate about supporting individuals with dysgraphia? We're seeking dynamic speakers to contribute their expertise and enthusiasm.

We're particularly looking for:

Handwriting Specialists, Assistive Technology Experts, Psychologists & Assessors

Let's come together to highlight dysgraphia, explore practical and playful ways to empower learning, and foster inclusive education worldwide.

Interested in speaking? Contact: mariachivers@dyslexiaa2z.com

Learn more at [International Dysgraphia Awareness Day \(IDAD\)](#)

Let's raise awareness, share knowledge, and spark lasting change—together. To save a place for the day, you will shortly be able to register at Eventbrite.

To view all the recordings from last year's event, visit:

<https://www.dyspraxiamagazine.com/pages/dyspraxia-awareness-week>



SEND Show 2025

**10th-11th October 2025
Business Design Centre, London**

Why attend? This is the leading SEND learning programme in the UK, featuring a SEND Leadership Summit, 42 expert led seminars, and over 100 exhibitors.

[Welcome | Tes SEND Show 2025](#)

Everway

FESTIVAL OF

Inclusive Education

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

Last year's Festival inspired thousands. This year, we're taking it even further.

Save the date: 22nd October 2025

Festival of Inclusive Education 2025 Texthelp

Dyslexia presents many learning barriers, making it overwhelming to know where to start.

With this handy guide, you'll find effective accommodations for every need:

[Supporting Dyslexia guide: Personalised Learning | Texthelp](#)

ANND is the Adult Network: Neurodiversity and Dyslexia

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.

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



Discover our self-paced e-learning courses

Our e-learning provides a deep dive into SEND law for all experience levels.

Each course includes downloadable resources and online tasks, guiding you step-by-step through essential topics in SEND law:

[E-learning for parents and carers](#)

[E-learning for parent groups, schools and charities](#)

[E-learning for local authorities](#)

[E-learning for SEN professionals and private organisations](#)

Darius Namdaran is continuing to share the recorded talks from the Neurodiversity Empowered 2025 event – created when Dr. Martin Bloomfield brought together speakers to keep the spirit of the Neurodiversity Show alive, with the support of the Dyslexia Explored Podcast.



Why Does Mental Health in Neurodivergent People Matter?

- Mental health concerns are rising (NHS Digital, 2022)
- Particularly high among neurodivergent individuals
- Expressions of distress are often misunderstood
- Early understanding and support are crucial to developing protective factors, so people can realise their potential and use their strengths rather than being held back by their challenges



In the second talk, keynote speaker Liz Day explores how we can better understand and support mental health for individuals who think differently.

Liz dives into:

- Mental health is not just problems
- Seeing mental health as part of overall well-being
- The importance of early support and building resilience
- Creating psychologically safe environments
- Using practical tools for supporting neurodivergent individuals
- The role of communication and routines in personal and community well-being

Drawing on both research and personal experience, Liz offers a thoughtful, accessible session that's ideal for educators, parents, and professionals alike.

Listen to the 20 minute episode here: <https://youtu.be/b7aA7PcjsA4>



[Listen to my interview with Izzy Felton \(The SEND Network\) about dyslexia](#)

"Let's Bring Dyslexia Back in the Room"

In this podcast episode I had the privilege to talk with Izzy Felton of The SEND Network about dyslexia. We discuss whether dyslexia is overlooked in education, in spite of major recent research and a new definition. We consider harmful myths and a tick-box response that is driven by labels, which I suggest replacing with a needs led approach and effective teaching strategies that cost nothing.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

bett

● A Hyve Event

21st-23rd January 2026

ExCel, London

Why attend? The UK's leading EdTech event, with a bigger and better SEND Village.

[Bett UK: Leading EdTech Event | 21-23 Jan 2026, ExCel London](#)

ARTICLES & BLOGS



Reflections on the 2025 DfE Writing Framework: A Dyslexia Specialist's Perspective - Louise Selby Dyslexia Specialist

Last week, the DfE published its long-awaited Writing Framework. There is comprehensive guidance about the process, complexity and teaching sequence of writing. This guidance is for primary and secondary practitioners. There is much of it that I welcome warmly; especially the focus on relieving cognitive load, scaffolding and morphology.

Literacy underpins every aspect of our education system - but for dyslexic learners, this can feel like a relentless and discouraging truth. Too many dyslexic students reach secondary school without secure foundations, and the opportunity to close the gap has already been lost.

This is not good enough. Most children don't learn to write through creativity alone - and many are left feeling broken by the well-meaning but misguided message that they must read and write for pleasure. What they really need is to read and write for purpose.

I hope you enjoy my reflections. If you have your own reflections in response, why not find it on my social media posts and post your comments?

[Read blog](#)



Everyone deserves to be understood

Understood is the leading nonprofit empowering the 70 million people with learning and thinking differences in the United States.

Resources at: [Dyslexia](#)

See also:

[7 ways to encourage your child to read over the summer](#)

[Summer learning: How to help your child keep skills strong](#)

[7 board games to help younger kids build math skills](#)

[Through My Eyes](#) - see through the eyes of real kids to understand their strengths and challenges through interactive simulations and heartfelt videos.



[AI can 'level up' opportunities for dyslexic children, says UK tech secretary | Artificial intelligence \(AI\) | The Guardian](#)

Peter Kyle, who is dyslexic and uses AI in his work, says government should look at how it 'can transform education'.

[Robert Booth](#) UK technology editor
10 June 2025

Artificial intelligence should be deployed to "level up" opportunities for dyslexic children, according to the UK science and technology secretary, [Peter Kyle](#), who warned there was currently not enough human capacity to help people with the learning difficulty.

Kyle, who is dyslexic and uses AI to support his work, said the government should carefully look at "how AI can transform education and help us assess and understand a young person's abilities into the future".

He spoke as the TV chef Jamie Oliver, who is also dyslexic, launched a campaign calling for improved teacher training on dyslexia and earlier screening of children to detect the condition sooner. About 6 million people in the UK are estimated to have dyslexia, which primarily affects reading and writing skills.

Kyle told the Guardian he had felt "quite emotional" when seeing AI technology used to help young people learn with "incredible empathy, encouragement and knowledge".

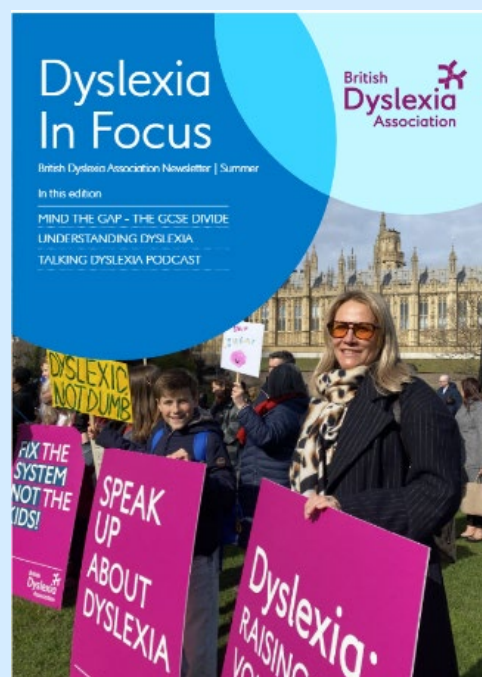
Read full article at [AI can 'level up' opportunities for dyslexic children](#)



New magazine
from the BDA!

[Dyslexia In Focus | Summer 2025](#)

(Replacing the Contact magazine)





[Neurodiversity 101](#)

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

These recent newsletters discuss all things relating to neurodiversity and provide practical strategies to help all.

[Parent focus.. how to stop the "Summer Slide" and prepare for Autumn](#)

[Failure is a stumble.. it's how we get up that matters...](#)

[Designing inclusion is designing resilience](#)

[Why diagnoses come and go – and what this means for designing better support](#)

[What is a Reasonable Adjustment and what is an unreasonable demand?](#)

#succeed with dyslexia Digest

[5 No-Book Summer Reading Hacks for Kids](#)

[Will kids still be able to get an EHCP next year?](#)

[A parent's prep guide to results day](#)

[Where have all the SENCos gone?](#)

[Dyslexia and Work: Should I do an Unpaid Internship?](#)

[Quiz: What's causing your dyslexic burnout at work?](#)

[How can HR support older colleagues with dyslexia?](#)

[The things we wish people knew about being a dyslexic on a Teams call](#)

[5 hot tips for staying chill on your summer holidays!](#)

[What on Earth is a 'Spiky Profile?'](#)

Off to Uni this Autumn? Considering applying for DSA? What happens in an assessment for a neurodiversity such as dyslexia?

[Katrina Cochrane](#)

Director and Founder Positive Dyslexia Ltd



It may be that you have been lucky enough to have had support for a SpLD all the way through school, even exam access arrangements for your GCSE's and A levels. However, you may have been turned down on the basis that you didn't meet the criteria. Don't worry you may still be able to apply for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) and also have access arrangements at your University. Made by Dyslexia recently calculated that 80% of students with a neurodiversity are not picked up until they get to University, so if you think you may need to apply, then best to do it as quickly as possible.

A full Diagnostic Assessment should not be confused with electronic screeners and checklists which will look for 'signs of dyslexia' or 'traits of dyslexia' rather than give a definitive diagnosis. For DSA a full diagnostic assessment is required, but if you did have one as a child that was carried out by someone with a full APC (Assessment Practising Certificate) at the time, then good news – you can use that one.

Click [here](#) for full article providing very detailed information about . . .

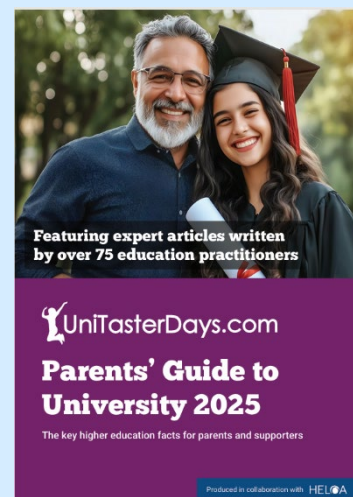
Before the Diagnostic Assessment takes place
Information the assessor will need from you
What a Diagnostic Assessment involves
After the Diagnostic Assessment
Diagnostic Assessment report
What might a further referral be?
Interpreting the report
What kind of recommendations might be made?
Disabled Students Allowance

Parents' Guide to University 2025

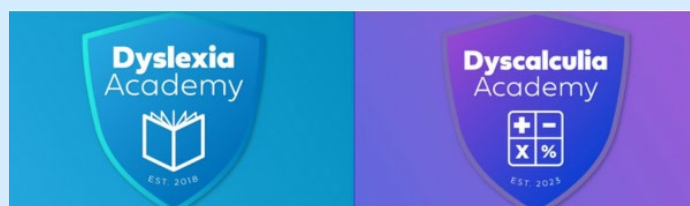
Featuring expert articles written by over 75 education practitioners.

105 pages covering:


University for everyone (includes 'Support for students with SEND')
Researching university options
University events
Financing your studies (includes 'the DSA')
Applying to university
Getting ready for university



MORE INFORMATION, RESOURCES & OFFERS






School's out, routines are shifting, and everyone's ready for a well-earned breather. But before we fully switch off, here's a little secret...

 **Learning doesn't have to stop – it just gets to look a little different in summer.**

Inside the **Free Resources** section of the *Dyslexia & Dyscalculia Academy*, you'll find simple, fun activities designed to keep young minds ticking without the pressure.

🌟 Here's what's waiting for you:

-  Screen-free memory games
-  Maths-in-the-real-world challenges
-  Wordplay puzzles + dyslexia-friendly printables

Perfect for:

- ✓ Tutors to send home over the holidays
- ✓ Parents looking for rainy-day ideas
- ✓ Anyone who wants to keep things ticking gently over summer
- 💡 Keep it light. Keep it fun. Keep it going.
- 👉 Head to: www.dyslexia-academy.com

Warm wishes,

Katie - Founder, Dyslexia & Dyscalculia Academy



[Tinted Exercise Books](#) | [Notebooks](#) | [Paper](#) | [Dyslexia-Friendly](#)

TINTED EXERCISE BOOKS SUMMER SALE

UP TO
20%
DISCOUNT

- ✓ A4 Books now from **£1.90** each (€2.35)
- ✓ 9"x7" Books now from **£1.85** each (€2.30)
- ✓ Mix and match across all colours and rulings

SHOP NOW

ends July 31st





All of our training is free and online – it's available to EVERY teacher worldwide.

Our free parent and teacher training now available on The Open University!

At Made By Dyslexia, our mission is to teach the world the brilliance of Dyslexic Thinking and to empower it in every school, every workplace and every home.

To help parents and teachers everywhere, we've made our free training course: **Empower Dyslexic Thinking in Schools** available on The Open University for the first time, via the DyslexicU – the University of Dyslexic Thinking [here](#).

In just 1 hour of training, parents and teachers can learn what Dyslexic Thinking is, how to spot it in the classroom and how to identify the 7 Dyslexic Thinking skills in kids – and why these are vital in the world today.

It's the first of Made By Dyslexia training courses to be available on the platform, with more coming soon.

[Take the parent & teacher training](#)

A green rectangular advertisement for NASEN. On the left, a white speech bubble contains the quote: "I developed a hatred of words and a total resentment for education." Below the quote is the text "Jamie Oliver, 2025". On the right, the NASEN logo (with the tagline "Helping Everyone Achieve") is positioned above the text "Working with you to empower young learners". At the bottom right, there is a pink button with the text "Explore our dyslexia resources".

nasen believes that **reading is both a right and a responsibility**. Every learner deserves access to the written word - and every educator, regardless of subject or setting, has a role to play in making that possible. This includes colleagues in secondary schools and post-16 education, where reading support may not traditionally be seen as part of the job. We believe that every classroom can be a place where reading is made possible, expected and valued.

Ensuring that all learners can read confidently is a cornerstone of inclusive education. Yet for many practitioners, particularly those outside primary or specialist roles, the challenge isn't a lack of commitment - it's a lack of clear, practical guidance.

That's why we've brought together a collection of **resources, whole school strategies** and **evidence informed approaches** for supporting learners with dyslexia and other literacy-related learning differences. From reference books to bite-sized online CPD units and episodes from our inspiring Twilight Talks - we're sure there's something for everyone.

[Explore our Dyslexia Resources](#)

nasen Academy Unveiled – Your Learning, Your Way

As announced at nasen LIVE, we're excited to launch nasen Academy - a brand-new, flexible online learning platform designed to empower education professionals at every level with high-quality, evidence-informed training focused on SEND. Through our intuitive Learning Management System (LMS), practitioners can access expert-led courses anytime, anywhere, supporting ongoing professional development with practical strategies, and personalised learning paths!

[Learn more about nasen Academy](#)

Launching September 2025, nasen and **The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC)** are **teaming up to offer a free CPD course and guide** that empowers SENCOs and practitioners with practical, evidence-based strategies to strengthen partnerships with parents and carers of young people with SEND. To kick things off, join two free 30-minute live webinars in September for an insightful overview and tips on driving inclusive, lasting careers engagement.

[Book our FREE webinar](#)

Here's some quick updates and a look at the **CPD events we've lined up for September**, so you can come back refreshed and ready to dive into new learning opportunities.

- [nasen News](#)
- [Partner News](#)
- [Dates for your Diary \(September\)](#)



Dive into our latest edition on occupational therapy and sensory support - packed with expert tips, real-world strategies, and practical tools to help every learner thrive. From sensory needs to smooth transitions, it's your essential guide to inclusive practice.

[Read Connect Now](#)

The Vortex of Dyslexia

Trigger:

- reading aloud
- a timed task
- homework
- a writing assignment
- a practice assignment
- a judgmental teacher



Lexercise®

[Georgia Ryan - Dyslexic Warrior](#) is at [University of Newcastle, Australia](#)

This infographic from the team at [@lexercise](#) is a visual representation of a dyslexic student's daily struggles and the emotional impact dyslexia can have on us.

That is why early identification and intervention is essential!

Things are changing at [Dyslexic Life With Jo Rees](#)

I have been super busy behind the scenes at DLWJR creating an exciting new Stan Store platform.

My Stan Store page is a one stop shop for all my resources and free online masterclasses.

It is also home to my brand-new Dyslexia and ADHD empowerment community.

How you use this community is totally up to you, you can meet new people, engage in conversation or simply use it for updates from Dyslexic Life.

<https://stan.store/dyslexiclifewithjorees>

Have you joined our FREE community over on Stan Store yet? If not, why not?

Free Resources

Like minded peers

The first to know when offers and new programs launch

Find the link on our bio or on our website.
www.dyslexiclifewithjorees.com

Warning Signs in Preschool



If a child has 3 or more warning signs, we encourage the child's family and teachers to learn more about dyslexia.

- ✓ Delayed speech
- ✓ Trouble creating words that rhyme.
- ✓ Mixes up sounds and syllables (aminal for animal)
- ✓ Confusing left/right (directionality)
- ✓ Trouble learning letter names/sounds.
- ✓ Trouble identifying the first or last sounds in a word.
- ✓ Trouble getting words out, "The um, thing that, um..."
- ✓ A close relative with dyslexia.
- ✓ Average/above average intelligence but difficulty learning to read.



www.decodingdyslexia.org

Reprinted with permission from Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, www.BrightSolutions.US



FLEXITABLE

x / ÷ %
+ / - 1 - 100

Do you have a primary school aged child?
Or perhaps a child who has learning needs?

- Could they do with support with multiplication?
- Subtraction?
- Even square roots?



<https://flexitable.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/flexitable-sketch.mp4>

In the dynamic world of education, finding innovative and effective tools to aid students' understanding of mathematics is paramount.

Flexitables, a groundbreaking set of numeracy grids, have emerged as the ultimate solution for educators and learners alike.

In this blog, we will delve into the benefits of Flexitables and explore each product type while addressing their relevance to students with dyslexia or dyscalculia:

[Introducing Flexitables - The Ultimate Maths Learning Tool - Flexitable](#)

Nessy

FREE Math Fun Alert!

Unlock your child's inner math whiz with Nessy Learning's FREE downloadable math workbooks!

- ✓ Fun & engaging
- ✓ Dyslexia-friendly
- ✓ Totally FREE!
- 👉 Grab yours now and turn math into a superpower!



Head to <https://www.nessy.com/.../dyslexi.../free-learning-resources>

Summer is here - and with it, the dreaded "summer slide."

Without regular reading and spelling practice, kids can lose months of progress over the holidays.

But there's a fun, proven way to keep learning going... **and it's now 60% OFF!**

Nessy for Home is trusted by parents and loved by kids around the world to support:

- ✓ Reading and spelling
- ✓ Confidence-building
- ✓ Kids who learn differently

Whether your child has dyslexia or just needs extra support, Nessy makes learning engaging, interactive, and effective.

Use code: SUMMER60 **Ends soon – don't miss out!** [Home and Home Educators](#) | [Nessy](#)



Dyspraxia Magazine

The WDA has joined the "community of readers who appreciate the FREE quarterly publications on all things Dyspraxia" - by subscribing to the Dyspraxia Magazine – owned and run by neurodivergent only people.

You too can now explore the past issues and check out the extensive collection of online articles that cover all things Dyspraxia and other Neurodivergences too.

View all previous issues here: [Dyspraxia Magazine Issues - Google Drive](#)



Planning for the summer ahead

While summer's freedom is part of the fun, the sudden shift in routine can feel a little unsettling for some children. Our handy Summer Planner helps them feel more prepared – whether it's beach days, park trips or quiet time at home. Fill it with plans, then stick it on the fridge or pin to a notice board for a summer full of memories, minus the anxiety.

[Download Free](#)

Bye-bye boredom

When the puzzles are finished, the toys have had their turn, and the classic 'I'm boored!' echoes through the house, it's time to bring out the boredom busters. Giant bubbles, apple boats, sock puppets, swirling teacup storms – these symbol-supported activities are perfect for curious minds and fidgety hands. All easy to make and great for rainy days or shady garden afternoons.

[Download Free](#)

Sunshine, splashing, and... wordsearches?

Whether they're paddling in the pool, digging for treasure in the sandpit or just cloud-watching from the trampoline, this Summer Weather Pack captures the joy of the season while blending learning with play. With 17 symbol-supported activities, including flashcards, poems, wordsearches and a book about Zed the alien's holiday plans, there's plenty of summer fun to dip into all season long.

[Download Free](#)

Souvenir, rockpool... Blackpool?

What do they all have in common? They're part of an unforgettable summer holiday of course! This colourful set of Holiday Vocabulary flashcards is perfect for building language around all things related to summer holidays – from what to pack, to what you might see, do, or bring home. The cards can be used for matching games, storytelling, or starting conversations about dream destinations and past adventures.

[Download Free](#)

[Assistive Technology \(AT\) - Local Offer](#)



AT can be a wide range of devices with the primary function of improving the day-to-day life of someone with an additional need. [The government has published a statutory definition](#). It could be providing an alternative way of controlling a computer, or it might enable someone to open the windows and doors in their own home. It can also involve ways of communicating. For a great guide on what kinds of technology is out there across all the areas of your life visit [Living made easy \(Shaw Trust - DLF\)](#).

AT at work

If you are in work talk to your employer to see if they have an existing arrangement or if you have found a solution that requires additional funding you might be eligible for an [Access to work](#) grant. For example, perhaps you need additional assistance with reading due to dyslexia, a [scanner pen](#) which reads out loud could make your work more accessible and efficient.



[Assistive technology within education](#)

[Using assistive technology in formal examinations](#)

[Supportive technology at home](#)

[Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(AAC\)](#)

[Web and Digital Accessibility Tools](#)

[Visiting Wiltshire facilities](#)

[Telecare \(Ages 5+\)](#)

One of our lovely parents has created this guide about the summer holidays and asked us to share it as it may be useful to others.

MANAGING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS IN A NEURODIVERGENT HOME

KEEP A FLEXIBLE STRUCTURE

You don't need a strict schedule, but having a basic rhythm to the day (even if it's just breakfast, activity, quiet time) can help everyone know what to expect. Visuals or checklists work well for some children and for adults.

PLAN FOR THE MIDDLE SLUMP

The novelty of summer wears off. Instead of waiting for everything to fall apart, expect it. Have a reset plan ready, whether it's bringing back some routine, adding a new activity, or acknowledging that the second half is harder and giving yourself permission to lower the bar. Perfectionism does not have a place here.

DIVIDE THE DAY INTO MANAGEABLE CHUNKS

Rather than thinking in terms of whole days, break it down into morning, afternoon, and evening. It can make the time feel more doable, especially on tough days.

MAKE SPACE FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS

You won't meet everyone's needs all the time and that's okay. Aim for balance over time, not perfection every moment. Tag team with another adult if possible, or build in 1:1 time in small, doable ways.

GIVE YOURSELF WORK TIME BOUNDARIES

If you're working through the summer, make your work time visible. Whether it's with a visual cue, a timer or a clear "I'm working until this time" statement, set the boundary and hold it gently but firmly. Your children may not love it, but it builds predictability.

FIND YOUR MINIMUM VIABLE DAY

Some days will be about survival and that's enough. Know what your this is enough baseline is (everyone safe, everyone fed) and release yourself from guilt when that's all you can manage.

LET GO OF COMPARISON

Your family's version of summer doesn't have to look like anyone else's. What works for your household is valid even if it looks low-key, repetitive or messy. You do what works for you and your family.

PLAN YOUR RECHARGE MOMENTS

You can't pour from an empty cup. Whether it's five minutes alone, a quiet coffee or asking for help with childcare for even an hour, your regulation matters too. Do not think about it as you vs them, but rather as you as well.

Dyslexia Action

Training and Professional Development

Continuing Professional Development - CPD Short Courses

Start online 24 September

Book Now!


At Dyslexia Action Training, we offer a wide range of short online CPD Units and Awards for those looking to build a better understanding and approach to supporting learners with dyslexia, literacy, specific learning difficulties (SpLDs), numeracy and well-being.

Each online CPD Unit comprises 20-30 hours study over an eight-week period allowing new skills to be brought into the support environment. There is no 'live' delivery, providing the flexibility to access educational content at any time and courses are suitable for those working in primary/secondary, for those supporting adults and for those working overseas.

You can view our [CPD programme syllabus](#)

Please visit [our website](#) for a full list of our courses and qualifications available.

DYSLEXIA STORIES



**HRH
PRINCESS
BEATRICE**

“
One of the strengths we have as dyslexics is to look at things differently, to be a problem solver, find new ways to do things
”

#MadeByDyslexia

MADE BY
DYSLEXIA



I finally got over my lifelong sense of inadequacy when Princess Beatrice, Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter discussed her dyslexia in a number of interviews... She said she wasn't able to count and had a hard time learning how to read. She could have been describing me.

For the first time, I truly understood what my problem was and felt better about myself.

- Tina Turner -

Georgia

[Sarah Hickinbotham](#) commented on the article below, recently shared on LinkedIn:

"That makes so much sense now!" I often hear this statement from my clients. Many have gone a lifetime not knowing why they excel at some tasks and seem to find others much harder.

No, a diagnosis is not cheap - if you can't get it through work or your place of education.

Yes, there's a lot involved in the diagnosis process - it's thorough for good reason.

[Dyslexia: 'My diagnosis was a lightbulb moment' - BBC News](#)



Alex Meakin
BBC News
13 June 2025

Two women who found out they had dyslexia in their 40s have described how the diagnosis came as a "huge relief" and was "a lightbulb moment".

Sue Flohr, who runs the Adult Dyslexia Centre in Maidenhead, Berkshire, and one of the service's users, Alice Nugent, said growing up with the learning difficulty damaged their confidence.

The pair are now encouraging adults who think they might have the condition - which primarily impacts reading and writing skills - to get a diagnosis to better understand themselves.

Government statistics show that 6.3 million people in the UK have dyslexia, while one in six adults have the reading level of an 11-year-old.

Ms Flohr said she was described as a "slow developer" at school and sought a diagnosis after her children were found to have the disability.

She said: "Some [people] can grow up with poor self-esteem and a lack of confidence and never achieve their potential - and I think that's what we're there for.



It's really unfortunate that we had to open a centre for adults some 20 years ago for all those people that were missed in school and are still being missed."

Sue Flohr was diagnosed with dyslexia in her 40s. She continued: "It knocks your self-esteem, it knocks your confidence. It means that generally everything takes you longer than other people. It can be infuriating."

Ms Nugent said her diagnosis as an adult was "like a lightbulb moment".

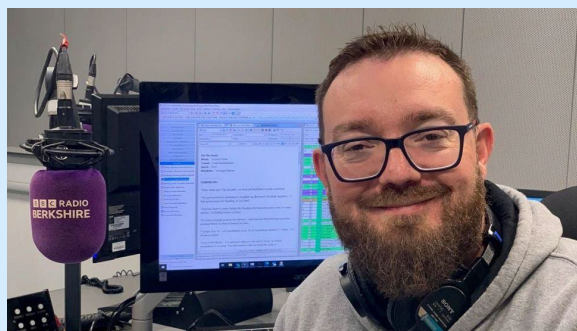
"Relief, like 'oh that's why I've been feeling this way, that's why I've been struggling so much but without realising what the problem was'. "I knew there was something different about me but I couldn't pin it down. Now my confidence has gone up and I'm able to help other people as well."

A dyslexia diagnosis is not available via the NHS. It is recognised as a specific learning difficulty and this means it is an educational assessment. A diagnosis can only be made by an educational psychologist who is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council or a specialist teacher with a valid registration.

BBC presenter Phil Mercer on being diagnosed with dyslexia at 50

Dyslexia diagnosis at 50 'was a feeling of relief'

Phil Mercer BBC News



Click [here](#) to listen to the 7½ minute radio interview.

Working as a newsreader and a presenter on the radio means I have had to read out loud quite a lot - it's an essential part of the job.

But over the years I'd sometimes struggle with some of the basic stuff like reading the scripts word for word - I'd hit a wall and make really silly mistakes - and it was frustrating.

When I had the chance to have a test for dyslexia at the age of 50, after being inspired by a feature we did on Radio Berkshire, it established that, yes, I was dyslexic.

It was a feeling of relief but also, for anyone struggling like me, a diagnosis can help you better understand yourself.

Looking back to my school days in the 1980s and early 90s, I would often have to work hard to properly understand things, especially with maths and English.

In the end I did very badly at my A-levels, leaving me frustrated with myself and suddenly not really having a life plan.

Back then there wasn't the support or awareness of dyslexia and the impact it could have on a child's education and prospects - things might have turned out differently if there had been.

Luckily I got to muck around doing radio - hospital radio and then AA Roadwatch travel news before joining the BBC in Oxford.

The BBC was great at teaching you the skills you need for journalism. I developed coping strategies - reading scripts many times over, changing breathing techniques, and using a different font that was easier to read.

Like many things, you get along in life and I think I've done alright, even though I was never tested for or diagnosed as dyslexic. When we featured the Adult Dyslexia Centre in Maidenhead, which helps people who have struggled with growing up with the learning difficulty, I was inspired to take the test.

Having taken the four-hour test with reading and comprehension and cognitive reasoning and recall, I eventually got the certificate confirming dyslexia.

In a way I'm grateful that it shows I'm not stupid - it's a relief to know there is a diagnosable thing that's gone on here.

I think the biggest thing I've learned is that facing a dyslexia diagnosis is not the end of the world and that there are a lot of things that can be done.

One of the things I often struggle with is keeping my eyes focused on the words in front of me and not drifting around.

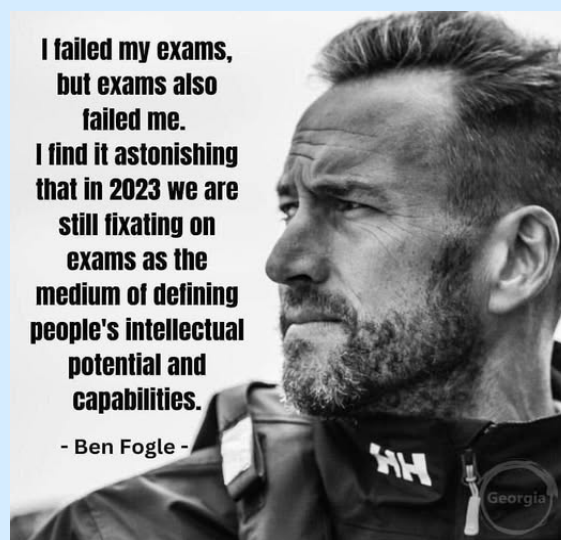
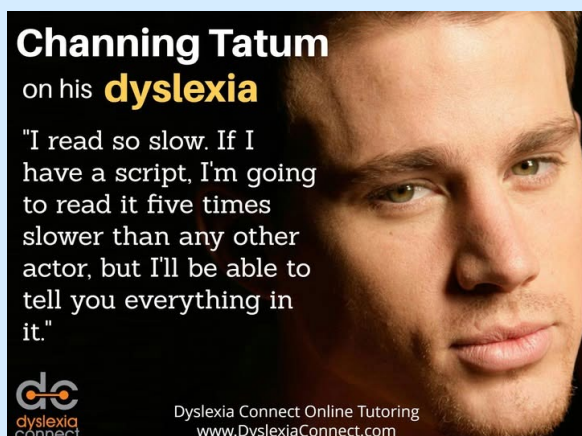
My assessor suggested going to a behavioural ophthalmologist, who can work out what's going on and even provide specialist glasses that help control the eyes better.

And for anyone having trouble - finding things like job interviews especially tough - and who, like me, has just struggled through, it's worth taking a test.

The difficulties I've had all now make sense.

What is dyslexia?

- Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that affects about one in 10 people in the UK, including adults as well as children, according to the British Dyslexia Association (BDA)
- If someone has dyslexia, they may have difficulties with their reading, writing or spelling
- It does not affect intelligence and it is not a disease or an illness - it is a condition that someone is born with
- Government statistics show that 6.3m people in the UK have dyslexia, while one in six adults have the reading level of an 11-year-old
- A dyslexia diagnosis is not available via the NHS. It is recognised as a specific learning difficulty and this means it is an educational assessment
- A diagnosis can only be made by an educational psychologist who is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council or a specialist teacher with a valid registration
- Charities such as the BDA can offer advice for people who want to find out whether they may have dyslexia





My Dyslexia Story: Nick Jaye AKA Bald Chef Nick

View an informal chat with Nick Jaye, aka Bald Chef Nick, as he shares his dyslexia story and what inspired him to write the dyslexia friendly cookbook, 'Deliciously Dyslexic'.

This is my story

I can't remember getting diagnosed formerly or in detail but I did go to see various people when I was younger and at some point my Mum said that I'd been diagnosed as dyslexic but I don't have or own anything in writing.

I can't remember getting diagnosed formerly or in detail but I did go to see various people when I was younger and at some point my Mum said that I'd been diagnosed as dyslexic but I don't have or own anything in writing.

In the early years, I was defeated by the challenges of basic communication in school, reading, writing, punctuation, telling the time, and spelling and I was unable to show people that I was not stupid.

However, as I got older, I began to adapt and find my own ways of managing. While I didn't achieve formal qualifications, I had many other strengths - I just wasn't given the opportunity to show them.

In my adult life, I was able to thrive without being noticed or seen as dyslexic and I have realised, like many others, that I hid my dyslexia; instead, I used it to solve problems in the property world using my designing, planning and practical skills.

When things started to change

I could always cook and I did with family. I would do recipes that were not too word-filled, but I learnt practically mainly.

Although my parents tried to get me to read they just placed books in front of me and thought somehow, I'd be able to read, which still amuses me this day!

I was a painfully shy boy until I was 12 and realised I wanted more friends.

So I made myself more sociable and talked and laughed a lot. I loved to cook, I wanted to be a chef, but I was not confident and had been told over and over and over again that I could not do anything without good exam results..

The dream...

I fell into my first job as an office boy in an estate agency. Almost 40 years later, after raising a family and providing all I could, I had the opportunity to study to become a chef.

I was in fact a kickboxing and kung fu instructor years ago. I thought that the incompleteness in my life may change when I got my black sash but of course it did not - nothing changed.

Being a chef and studying to get a qualification was very good for me but there was still something missing...the answer came...

It was being a dyslexic chef

Being a dyslexic author

Being a dyslexic Dad,

Being a dyslexic husband

A dyslexic friend

It had taken sixty years of battles with myself, but now at last I was proud to be Dyslexic, proud to let people know and now I want to tell the world.

If I can change the path of one shy, dyslexic individual, who may not think they are special, then it will change both our lives.

Being proud to be dyslexic completes me; it is, after all, who and what I am.

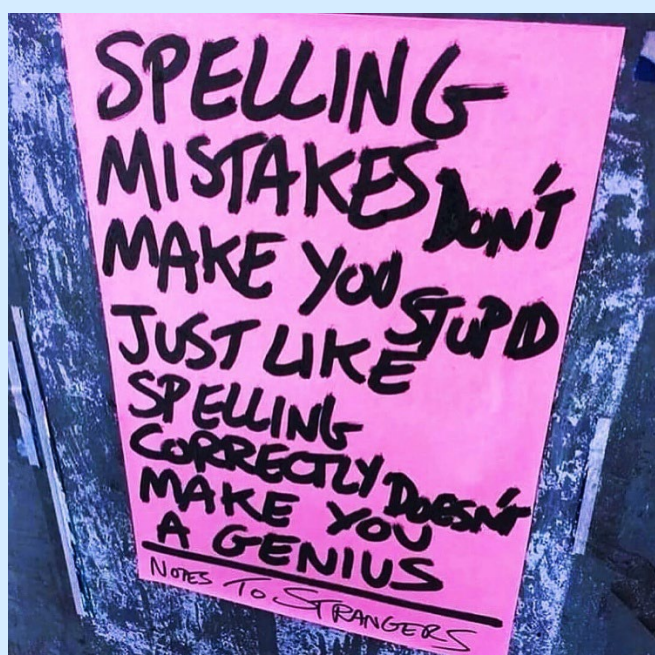
I am proud to be dyslexic, I am so happy to be complete at last, I regret nothing.

My advice to others

I recently spoke with a client whose son was diagnosed and I said to her please let him know his dyslexia is a gift and if he looks for it, he will find that gift and make the world a better place. Be proud of it.

Dyslexia is not just a complex word for being stupid.

Do not judge a dyslexic difference because it frustrates you, but be patient and welcome it, as soon as you recognise it, then we can learn to celebrate it.



Bestselling British artist, Mackenzie Thorpe, describes his dyslexia as a double-edged sword – and explains why it's vital for every dyslexic to find and focus on their strengths – so they can use it as a Samurai sword!



In the latest episode of our podcast, **Lessons In Dyslexic Thinking**, he says things change when parents, teachers and dyslexic kids understand the power of their dyslexic strengths – and we couldn't agree more.

Listen to Mackenzie's full episode on Apple, Spotify or Amazon:

[Lessons In Dyslexic Thinking - Podcast - Apple Podcasts](#)

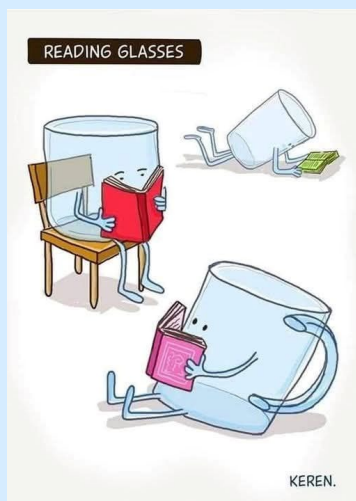
Or watch it here: [Lessons In Dyslexic Thinking - YouTube](#)

That's why we created free training for parents and teachers, now available on the DyslexicU, hosted by the Open University – so everyone can learn how dyslexics think and empower them to reach for the stars!

Take our free training here: [OLCreate: PUB 9454 1.0 Empowering Dyslexic Thinking in Schools](#)

Lessons In Dyslexic Thinking is hosted by Kate Griggs, Dyslexic Thinking expert and founder of Made By Dyslexia.

And finally . . .



Caroline Fowke

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