

More ideas to support your child

- Paired Reading may be a useful approach and a leaflet about this is available from the school.
- There are different ways of learning spelling words. Talk to your child's teacher for advice.
- Let your child see the purpose of writing: write your child short notes; make a shopping list together; send an email or postcard.
- If handwriting and / or spelling continue to be a problem, encourage your child to develop typing skills for word processing. There are some free online typing sites. It *will* take time to become fluent. The computer also has a spell-checker.
- Most computers and e-books have a text-speech function. This will speak aloud the highlighted text though the electronic voice does not suit everyone. There are also text readers which can be downloaded free from the Internet.
- If you are concerned about the secondary stage, discuss this with pupil support staff who will identify support, including appropriate assessment arrangements for your child's needs.
- Encourage your child to develop skills in other areas such as sports, dance, music, drama, art to let them experience success and enjoyment of taking part in activities with other children where reading and writing skills are not essential.
- Useful websites www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk
www.addressingdyslexia.org.uk



Renfrewshire Educational Psychology Service

DYSLEXIA

A Leaflet for Parents of Primary Pupils



What is Dyslexia?

There are several definitions of dyslexia, for example:

Dyslexia is evident when accurate and fluent word reading and / or spelling develops very incompletely or with great difficulty. This focuses on literacy learning at the 'word level' and implies that the problem is severe and persistent despite appropriate learning opportunities.

(British Psychological Society, 2005)

Children with dyslexic difficulties can be very different from each other in the way they learn and how they cope. They will make progress at different rates and will achieve different levels of literacy by the time they leave school. Spelling difficulties can last longer than reading difficulties for many children. Some children may also have other difficulties such as handwriting or concentration which will also need appropriate support.

Reading and your child

Your child has been identified as being dyslexic. This recognises that he or she has an ongoing struggle to learn basic reading and spelling skills and that this is likely to be an ongoing problem. However, almost all children will continue to improve and make progress which can continue at secondary school and into later life.

Your child may feel frustrated and upset and often tired at the end of the day. This can lead to battles over homework and a loss of confidence at school. There is no easy answer. Children need a lot of practice to develop reading and spelling skills and this will require a lot of perseverance from your child and a lot of patience from you.

What can parents do to help?

- Be positive and reassuring and praise your child's efforts. Your emotional support is essential for your child.
- If homework is stressful for you and your child, speak with the class teacher or pupil support staff straightaway. Discuss the best way of helping with reading and spelling or other homework and how long to spend on it. Your child may need help to note down homework.
- Plan a regular time to do homework. If you can, try to find a time and place away from brothers or sisters who are further on in reading, as this may embarrass your child.
- It is important to read stories regularly to your child and explain the meaning of new words and phrases as this will help to increase their vocabulary. Discuss the story and ask your child to re-tell the story to you.
- Audio books can help your child enjoy the books which children of their age are reading. Some books can be downloaded from the internet to a computer or an MP3 player, for example [listening-books](#) or [calibre audio library](#). Encourage your child to ask about the meaning of new words and tell you what is happening in the story.
- Ask the school to let you know if there is going to be any activity which might require reading (such as reading a drama script, or reading a poem or story aloud) so that you and your child can practise at home beforehand. This will let your child take part in these class activities but if it causes too much anxiety, contact the school to find an alternative activity.
- Encourage your child to read what they can in everyday situations for example television listings, magazines, recipes, menus, song lyrics, video game instructions, Try to let your child see you and other family members reading for pleasure.