

Addressing Reading Difficulties

A practical Guide from CALL Scotland

Who could help?

- Consult school Support for Learning teachers, librarian and colleagues
- Consult local authority ICT/ASN Specialist
- Check for contact details in your area - www.ictsls.org

I have a pupil with reading difficulties. What could help?

1 Identifying the problems, gathering information, team approach

Refer to local SfL/ASN guidance Document(s). Involve SfL/ASN Team. Consult Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit. Consider consulting VI/Dyslexia/Assistive Technology Service.

1.1 What do the difficulties arise from?

- Seeing or understanding the text, due to dyslexia/specific learning difficulties with language, reading, spelling
- Understanding the text due to learning difficulties
- Holding the book or turning pages, due to physical difficulties
- Understanding the text, due to language impairment or as a result of hearing impairment
- Seeing the book, due to vision or visual processing, acuity, visual field tracking

2 Have you addressed these difficulties with reading interventions?

- Reading comprehension
- Paired reading
- Reciprocal reading
- Precision reading
- Phonological awareness

3 Have you tried adaptations?

- Coloured overlays or lenses
- Magnifiers
- Book stands

4 Have you tried other types of reading materials?

- Graphic novels
- Age-Appropriate books eg. Barrington Stoke, Rising Stars

11 Next Steps

- Source books in required format
- Identify tools/features needed to support reading
- Identify device(s) and software apps
- Provide device software and books
- Teach learner

10 Have you tried making accessible formats?

- Copyright
- Audio
- Braille
- eBook formats
- Large Print
- PDF
- Scanning Paper Books
- Word

9 Have you tried other alternative formats?

- Large Print
- Braille
- 'Easy Read'
- Symbol-supported

8 Have you tried audio books?

- Free/low cost audio books
 - Calibre
 - Public libraries
 - Project Gutenberg
 - Load2Learn
 - Listening books
 - RNIB
- Commercial audio books
 - Audible.co.uk
 - Amazon
 - iBook Store

6 Techniques for reading digital books

- Font
- Font and colour backgrounds
- Font size, line spacing, character spacing
- Physical access
- Navigating the book

5 Have you tried digital books?

- Commerical eBooks
 - Kindle & Amazon
 - iPad & iBook Store
 - Google Books
 - WH Smith, Waterstones
- Free eBooks
 - Books for All Scotland Database
 - The Seeing Ear
 - Load2Learn
 - Project Gutenberg
 - Public libraries
- Devices
 - Kindle
 - iPad
 - Windows
 - Android
 - MacOS
 - Nook, Kobo etc

7 Have you tried text-to-speech (TTS)?

- iOS
 - Built-in: Speak Selection, Speak Screen, VoiceOver
 - Apps with TTS: eg ClaroRead, Co:Writer, Voice Dream, iReadWrite
- Windows
 - TTS Programs: eg ClaroRead, Co:Writer, Penfriend, Read & Write Gold
- MacOS
 - WordTalk for Microsoft Word
 - Free eg Balabolka, Orato, Minireader, Natural Reader
- Kindle
 - Free eg Balabolka, Orato, Minireader, Natural Reader
- Android
 - Apps eg. Easy Text to Speech, Voice Read Aloud
 - Voices eg. Cereproc, Ivona
 - Scottish Computer Voices

- What to Look for in TTS
- Does it highlight the text as it reads?
 - What programs can it read from?
 - Does it come with good voices?
 - Does it have other features (word prediction etc)?

Use the *Protocol for Accomodations in Reading* to Compare TTS with unaided reading (De Coste and Wilson, 2012)