

Dyspraxia

What is it?

Dyspraxia is a neurological disorder affecting the processes involved in planning and carrying out movements. Messages to and from the brain are simply not transmitting properly.

Dyspraxia is an umbrella of conditions known as specific learning difference (spLD), which are defined as exceptional variations in a person's ability, as well as problems with concentration and short-term memory. Dyspraxia affects co-ordination, spatial awareness and sensory perception.

How to identify?

A person with Dyspraxia is often a loner, poor handwriting, difficulties in tracing, copying and holding a pen. They may have emotional difficulties because they are unable to express their feelings. They may constantly repeat questions and their answers to fix them in their mind. May be poor at sport; even simple actions such as kicking and throwing can be challenging. They may have trouble distinguishing between serious comments and jokes.

Effective strategies to help?

A dyspraxic child needs encouragement and clearly defined and achievable goals, no matter how simple. Dyspraxia students may need extra time to get changed for PE. Tasks need to be carefully planned and broken down into simple, logical sentence. Small steps are needed and not too much simultaneous information. Seat at the front of the class, suitable pens, encourage keyboard and computer skills, being aware of health and safety issues.

Useful link

<http://www.fixers.org.uk> - Understanding Dyspraxia - Fixers.org.uk

<https://www.abilitynet.org.uk> - Dyspraxia and Computing - Abilitynet.org.uk

<http://www.dyspraxiauk.com/usefullinks.php> - Useful Links - Dyspraxia UK