



Wiltshire Dyslexia Association

2024 - Issue 10



Welcome to the latest edition of our WDA newsletters.

NEWS

SEND judgement on Wiltshire services and support is published

"Children and young people with SEND are valued and prioritised in Wiltshire."

That's the opinion of government inspectors who visited Wiltshire to check services for families with children and young people with SEND.

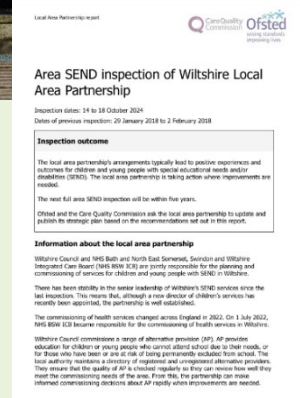
"The judgement by inspectors means we're one of only five local authorities to have received the top grade inspection for SEND and also an 'Outstanding' Ofsted result for our work with families and children in the last four years."

Wiltshire was recently visited by Care Quality Commission and Ofsted government inspectors to check services for families with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in Wiltshire. They looked at the whole Local Area Partnership which includes education, health, social care, alternative provision, and more.

The inspection involved speaking to professionals, families, and other organisations involved in SEND, including the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council.

The report highlights how partnership working in Wiltshire is incredibly positive, and collaborative working has helped to improve services. This includes the collective voice of children, young people and their families. The report also helpfully identifies areas that Wiltshire needs to continue to improve and the WPCC will continue to work in partnership across the Local Area to ensure that parent carers remain fundamental to strengthening services for all families of children and young people with SEND.

Click [here](#) to read the full inspection report. Wiltshire Council have also produced a [press release](#) about the inspection and its findings.



Wiltshire Consultation on Proposed Changes to Funding for EHC Plans

The current EHCP funding system was introduced in 2016, and it has not been changed since. Wiltshire Council is therefore seeking feedback on how to better align funding with students' needs, create a simpler and fairer funding process, and ensure that special schools and Resource Bases receive sufficient support.

The Council's consultation is aimed at improving how funds are allocated to schools, proposes changes to how EHCP funding is decided and how needs are described, so that the LA can be confident that children and young people are receiving the support they need.

Have Your Say

To have your say and contribute to the consultation, please click [consultation survey](#). The consultation runs until midnight on Sunday **5 January 2025**.

SEND Small Grants Scheme

. . . individuals, groups and organisations encouraged to apply.

Wiltshire Council has invited groups, organisations and individuals to apply for grants of up to £10k to help increase the number of opportunities and activities across Wiltshire for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND).

The grants can be used to buy items such as materials or equipment needed or increase the number of things they need to start a club or activity for children and people with SEND.

Deadline for submissions is Midday **6 January 2025**.

Applications will be assessed in January 2025.

The small grants scheme was established following parental feedback and aims to create more opportunities for children and young people with SEND in their local communities, providing greater access to clubs, activities and other groups.

The approach is aligned to the council's business plan to ensure children and young people have the best start in life and to provide opportunities for all young people to engage in wider society and the council.

[Learn More](#)

[Email](#)

Sign Up To The WPCC Newsletter

WPCC newsletters are sent out weekly and share local, regional and national Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) related information.



Find more information about the newsletter and signing up [here](#).
Read previous newsletters [here](#).

Wiltshire Council SEND Youth Forum

Wiltshire Council is looking for young people aged 11 to 24 with SEND to be part of a new Wiltshire SEND Youth Forum.

What is it?

- A space to be heard on the things that are important to you.
- A chance to be part of positive change and influence decision about services within Wiltshire Council.

Sessions could take place at weekends or evenings with food, activities. Discussions will take place in an informal way through discussions, drawing, writing. Everyone will have a chance to share their thoughts in a way that is accessible and comfortable to them.

If you are interested in being part of the Youth Forum, click [HERE](#); this will take you to a short survey where if you wish to join, you can put your details in and you will be contacted with further information.

SENDIASS Drop in

The Wiltshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice, and Support Service (SENDIASS), delivered by Family Action, offers regular face-to-face support across the community.

The Family Action SENDIASS team will be available at the following locations and times:

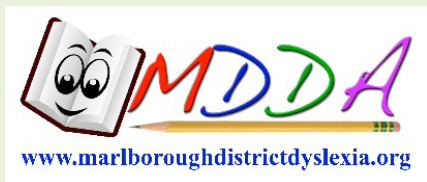
- **Warminster Library:** Second Monday of each month, 12:00pm – 2:00pm
- **Trowbridge County Hall Family Hub:** Third Monday of each month, 11:30am – 1:30pm
- **Chippenham Library:** Fourth Tuesday of each month, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- **Salisbury Library:** First Thursday of each month, 10:30am – 12:30pm

You can find out more information and contact the SENDIASS team via [Family Action: Wiltshire SENDIASS\(opens new window\)](#) or phone them on 01225 255266.

New Early Help SEND Team

We have a new team at Wiltshire Council working in SEND. The Early Help SEND Team will work with families, wider education and skills, education providers and other agencies to identify children and young people with SEND and work with them and their families as they access the right support to meet their needs.

The Early Help SEND team worker will attend the Discussion and Decision (DAD) meeting which decides what support is needed for a young person with SEND. This can be a range of support or in some cases an Education Health and Support Plan (EHCP). The Early Help SEND worker will be there to ensure families are fully informed about available support and guide them through the process of accessing the services they need.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Marlborough and District Dyslexia Association is now joining forces with the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association to continue to work together towards providing information and events to inform and empower dyslexics and their families in the future.

Susanne Harris (MDDA) writes:

The MDDA was set up by a group of parents and teachers who recognised a gap in provision for dyslexic children and adults and wanted to 'encourage the identification and to advance the education of people affected by dyslexia'.



The Inaugural Meeting was held in January 1988. In the early days the MDDA held two annual dyslexia-related lectures which were extremely well attended – mainly by parents, teachers and adult dyslexics. A helpline gave support and signposted members of the public to professionals as necessary. The Association kept a good stock of quality books and educational games for the public to borrow free of charge. A monthly 'surgery' was held at the local library.

Over the years the MDDA changed to meet the criteria of its members and lectures were replaced with workshops from experts, which included how to support children with appropriate strategies in literacy and maths. The MDDA ran free training days in conjunction with Wiltshire Council's Specialist SEN Service, for teachers and teaching assistants.

Wiltshire Council then set up the Wiltshire Dyslexia Support Group (DSG) which comprises Wiltshire SSENS, Wiltshire Dyslexia Association, MDDA and Wiltshire Parent Carer Council. The group has worked together to arrange an annual event at County Hall to mark Dyslexia Awareness Month, and other events across the county to improve dyslexia support across schools in Wiltshire.

Most importantly, Wiltshire Council is supporting Wiltshire Schools to achieve the British Dyslexia Association's [Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark for Education](#)

13 schools have achieved this award, and 15 further schools are being supported by SSENS to achieve this quality mark: [Dyslexia Friendly Schools June 2024 update - Local Offer](#)

BDA response to the Curriculum and Assessment review call for evidence

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) is pleased to be able to submit a response to the Curriculum & Assessment Review Call for Evidence. This is an important review which will hopefully lead to positive changes for children with dyslexia and dyscalculia, many of whom struggle to fully access the National Curriculum and are disadvantaged by the current assessment system. Around 10 per cent of pupils are dyslexic, meaning three in every classroom.

Our response focuses on evidence to support the experience and needs of those learners with dyslexia and dyscalculia accessing the National Curriculum and its assessment pathways. We have focused our response to those sections and questions which directly relate to learners with dyslexia or dyscalculia - section 3 on social justice and inclusion, and section 4 on ensuring an excellent foundation in maths and English.

Our key observations, concerns and recommendations are set out below. You can see our full response [here](#).

Offer from IDL

We are offering 20% off for any school that comes to us via the WDA recommendation, and I am also happy to offer extended trials (up to 6 months).

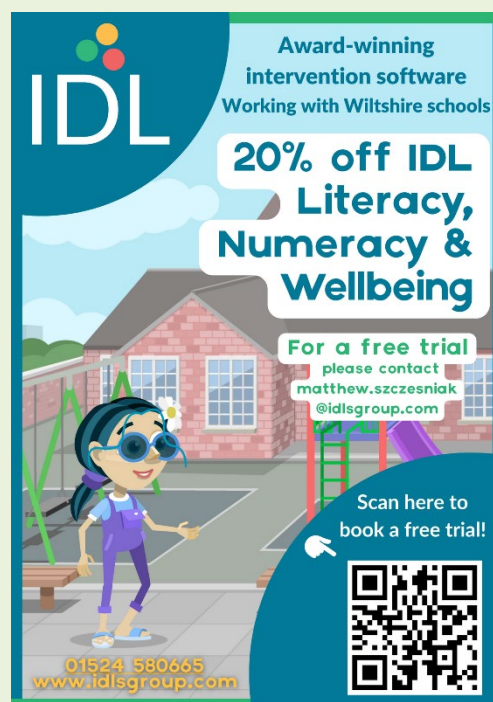
- Both our Screeners are FREE to use when a school subscribes to either IDL Numeracy or Literacy – each program also comes with some more unique FREE features (MTC, ABC, Spelling & Typing tools).
- All schools which have less than 100 pupils on roll are eligible to an immediate 50% discount.
- We offer substantial discounts to Multi Academy Trusts as well.
- Home use is included for FREE with every school subscription package as well.

I am also happy to continue to offer FREE support for parents who may not be able to afford the program. All they need to do is get in touch with me and I will always be happy to understand their situation a little better and let them use IDL if they need the support.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Matthew Szczesniak
Interventions Advisor
01524 580665
matthew.szczesniak@idlsgroup.com

www.idlsgroup.com/resources - download worksheets including



A graphic advertisement for IDL (Interventions Developmental Literacy) software. It features a cartoon girl with blue hair and sunglasses standing in front of a red brick house. The text includes: 'Award-winning intervention software Working with Wiltshire schools', 'IDL', '20% off IDL Literacy, Numeracy & Wellbeing', 'For a free trial please contact matthew.szczesniak@idlsgroup.com', 'Scan here to book a free trial!' with a QR code, and '01524 580665 www.idlsgroup.com'.



A worksheet titled 'WRITE A STORY' with a Christmas theme. It includes a line for 'Name', a list of words to use: 'Santa, stocking, night, chimney, snow', and a drawing of a Christmas stocking. The worksheet has several lines for writing a story, with small star and snowflake icons as guides. At the bottom, there is a drawing of Santa Claus.

PhD Level Research Study

- **Attitudes towards Dyslexia in the workplace**
- **Dyslexia Participants Needed**

Request received from a student who would like to hear from people with dyslexia about his workplace observations of employers and line managers in the UK:

I am a Dyslexic PhD student at the University of Stirling. I am currently researching on Dyslexia and Employment - Understanding attitudes towards Dyslexia in the workplace, and would be grateful if you would pass on this research participant request.

Are you over 18 years old with a dyslexia diagnosis?

Do you have work experience?

Would you be happy to talk about your working life?

The link to the PhD research questionnaire is below:

https://stir.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KrVU7yo5PD0RtY

If you need any more information or have any questions about this PhD research. I will be happy to discuss this with you.

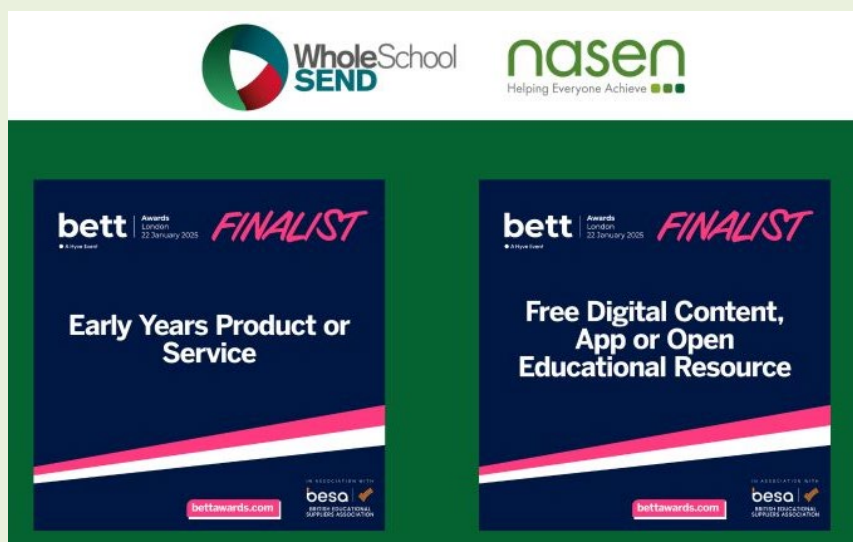
Dean Smith

BA(Hons), PGCertLTHE, MSc, FHEA

Doctoral Researcher

University of Stirling

Email: d.p.smith@stir.ac.uk



It's a double celebration for nasen and [Whole School SEND](#) as we've been shortlisted in two categories for [hashtag#BETTawards2025](#): Early Years Product or Service and Free Digital Content, App or Open Educational Resource.

Both of our shortlisted products - Meeting the Needs of Every Child and Online SEND CPD Units - are FREE to access, thanks to funding from the [Department for Education](#). And at a time when budgets are stretched and demands remain high, knowing where to access quality assured CPD that doesn't break the bank can only be a benefit for the sector.

Read the full story here: <https://ow.ly/3rlt50U1o7o>



Welcome to the winter edition of the CDC Digest: [CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

In this Digest we aim to offer a range of articles and resources to keep you up to date with the work of CDC and the sector as a whole. We hope there is plenty for you to read and engage with.

A snapshot of this quarter's digest includes:

- An update from Amanda Allard;
- A postcard from the recent European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education conference;
- Information on the upcoming Research and Improvement for SEND Excellence training;
- A new report on Autism and Parental Blame; and
- Shining the spotlight on our CDC member the Feeding Trust.



[January-June 2025 Webinar programme now live!](#)

Does Assistive Technology form part of your PRD targets? Are you looking to upskill your knowledge of the world of AT to better support your learners?

[Accessible Christmas Resources](#)

Looking for some Christmas activities to add to your festive fun and celebrations? Here are some ideas worth checking out!

[Free online Speech to Text professional learning](#)

Are you looking for help about teaching pupils to use Speech-to-Text dictation? Try this free online course.

[Free webinars](#)

30 minute online workshops delivered to your desktop:

- [Empowering communication](#) - 15th January
- [Supporting Emotional Regulation: AAC support with Twinkl Symbols](#) - 29th January

The Christmas holidays are nearly here and while it can be a fun time of year, it can also be a challenging time for children and young people with special needs when their routines are interrupted.

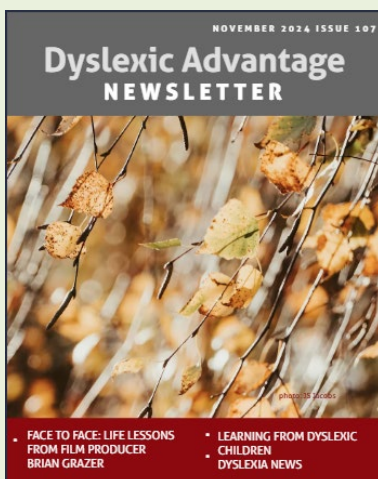
To help CENMAC Specialist Teaching Assistant Claire Hennings has put together some visual symbols to help parents and carers explain to their children what is happening during the holiday period and reduce some anxieties.

We have also included some extra resources from Widgit, RSBC, RNIB, Guide Dogs and Kids Kindness Club with lots of activities to keep children busy and engaged over the holidays. You may like to share these resources with parents of the children you support.

[> Access the resources](#)



Christmas Time Visual Calendar using symbols to indicate activities during the holiday period.



Link to November Newsletter : <https://joom.ag/otSd>

Articles: Lewis Hamilton 7x Champion Formula One Racing - How he visualizes his races, Dyslexic Advantage Movie Update, What is a Scribe?, Daily Thinker Dyslexic Advantage Fundraiser (Quote Notes and Calendars), Dyslexia News.

Check out our 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](#).



Throughout December, we're focusing on the role of AI in AT, hearing from you, the experts, about how you've successfully and responsibly integrated AI into your products, as well as addressing the concerns on safety and accuracy when using artificial intelligence.

Council member Myles Piling has been working with university colleague Teresa Aidonopoulou from the University of Northampton on AI and Ethics, and they've created a website to encourage people's contributions and experiences on the subject.

You can join in on the conversation at this link: <https://discussingai.blog>

Glean

Live webinar recording 'AI to empower, not replace' is now available to watch and listen to at this link: [Glean: New semester, new features, better notes recording](#)

Crick Software - celebrating 30 years of transforming children's lives with Clicker.

[Clicker](#) has hit a huge milestone – it's been used in schools for 30 years!

For three decades, our literacy software has been transforming classrooms, supporting children's learning, and making a real difference for pupils of all abilities.

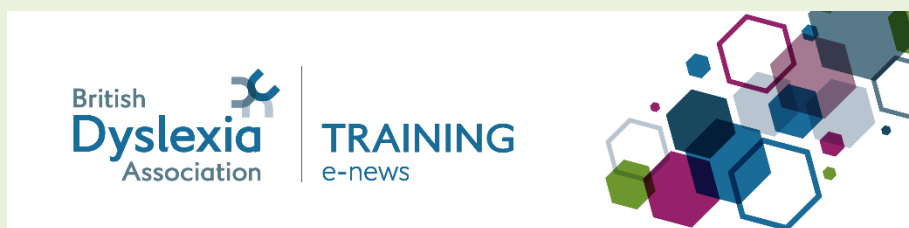
To celebrate this amazing achievement, we've put together a special video that looks back on Clicker's journey and the impact it's had over the years.

In the video, you'll hear the inspiring story of how Clicker began, straight from its founders, John and Ann Crick. You'll also get to see how schools are using Clicker today to help their learners build confidence and achieve success – whether it's getting to grips with writing or overcoming learning challenges.

It's a fantastic reflection on how technology can truly transform the classroom and a lovely reminder of why Clicker has been such a trusted part of school life for all these years.

We're so proud of what Clicker has achieved and can't wait to keep supporting schools for many more years to come! Join us in celebrating this incredible milestone and [enjoy the video](#)

AccessAbility Solutions has supported multiple people through the Access to Work scheme, providing guidance and practical tips to improve productivity and reduce overwhelm. You can read the full article here: <https://aas123.com/2024/09/30/adding-productivity-to-your-filing-methods/>



As part of our ongoing commitment to raising awareness and providing specialist support for dyslexia and specific learning difficulties, the British Dyslexia Association has a comprehensive training programme.

Specialist Professionals (SASC/CPD)

If you already support individuals with dyslexia or dyscalculia and want to develop your teaching or assessment practice or gain a recognised qualification, we provide high-quality accredited training courses and approved professional development opportunities.

Dyslexia: [Level 5](#) and [Level 7](#)

Dyscalculia: [Level 5](#) and [Level 7](#)

SASC Approved Courses

Our SASC approved courses are suitable for Assessors with a Level 7 in dyslexia or equivalent and are competent to carry out assessments for dyslexia. We have two courses currently running: [SASC -Use of TOD in a Diagnostic Assessment](#) and [Assessing for Dyscalculia-Good Practice in Testing](#). These are delivered online via Zoom.

[View all professional level courses here](#)

Teachers and Educational Professionals

If you are a teacher or educational professional, working or volunteering in any stage of education, we have a number of short courses and accredited programmes.

Our [Practical Solutions](#) + series covers [Spelling](#), [Reading](#), [Writing](#), [Screening](#) and [Fundamentals of Dyscalculia](#). These are completed via [live virtual training](#) modules.

[View all courses for teachers here](#)

Assistive Technology

Developing an awareness of assistive technology can be a vital piece of the support as many assistive technology products can help dramatically improve independence and performance. It also provides an opportunity to help break down the barriers to successfully gaining, maintaining and succeeding for those with dyslexia.

[Book your FREE introduction to AT course here](#)

Parents and Carers of Dyslexic and Dyscalculic Children

We offer courses specifically tailored to help parents and carers understand dyslexia and dyscalculia and its impact on their children. Our series of [webinars](#) and [short courses](#) provide insights into recognising the early signs of dyslexia and dyscalculia, practical strategies for supporting learning at home, and guidance on working with schools and educational professionals to ensure the best outcomes.

[View all courses suitable for parents and carers here](#)

Workplace Training

For employers and employees, we offer workplace training programs aimed at raising awareness of dyslexia in professional settings. These courses help organisations implement simple cost effective reasonable adjustments to create more inclusive work environments by understanding the challenges faced by dyslexic employees.

[View all our workplace courses here](#)

LET'S TALK  LIVE

TRAVELLING AS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH NEURODIFFERENCES



We welcomed Arran Smith and Katrina Cochrane to the **Let's Talk** this month, where they shared insights on the common challenges of traveling as an individual with neurodifferences!

Together, they explored ways to overcome barriers, navigate public transport, and share effective strategies for making travel more accessible.

[Catch up](#)

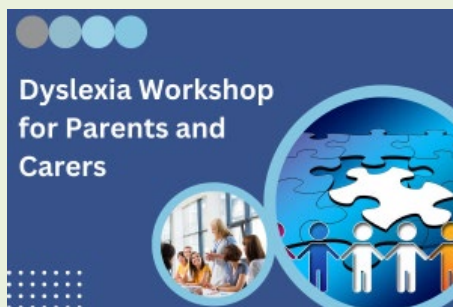
Donna Stevenson was joined by Dr. Deborah Leveroy to explore ways to foster conversations about neurodifferences in the workplace.

Together, they discussed approaches to disclosure, the benefits and challenges it presents, and strategies for creating a workplace environment where individuals feel safe to disclose.

[Catch up](#)

HOW TO... encourage the conversation





Dyslexia Workshop For Wiltshire Parents And Carers (Online Live)

Find out about dyslexia and the support available in Wiltshire from Wiltshire's Specialist SEN Service.

Tuesday 28 January 2025 16:00 - 17:30

Online – for Wiltshire Primary and Secondary School parents and carers.

This session will allow parents and carers to find out what dyslexia is, how schools and other agencies in Wiltshire identify and support literacy difficulties, and ways to help at home.

Booking Information:

[Dyslexia Workshop For Parents And Carers \(Online Live\) | Right Choice](#)

Only one contact person from each school needs to book on. Schools are asked to forward the link to parents who wish to attend, or host parents in school. A template email for sharing the link with parents will be available in your 'course documents' which can be accessed from your confirmation email.

This session is only available to join live; no recording will be available after the event.

Another similar event is arranged for Thursday 15 May 2025 16:00 - 17:30
Full details at: [Dyslexia Workshop For Parents And Carers](#)

Recordings are now available for the two webinars which Wiltshire's Specialist SEND Service hosted during Dyslexia Awareness Week:

Catch up on the webinars:

- Schools and professionals: <https://youtu.be/TG1fdyC9M04>
- Parents, carers and anyone affected by dyslexia: <https://youtu.be/i0rUyWN7Kfg>

Wiltshire is proud to have 13 dyslexia-friendly schools, with an additional 15 working toward this quality mark. Nearly half of the dyslexia-friendly schools nationwide are located in Wiltshire.

More information about dyslexia and Wiltshire dyslexia-friendly schools is available on the Wiltshire Local Offer page.

[Wiltshire Council Dyslexia Leaflet 2023.pdf](#)

[Dyslexia Friendly Schools - Local Offer](#)

Stop Dyslexic* Learners Underperforming at School - Webinar Series

(*All learners that struggle with literacy)

Full details in previous WDA newsletter and at [Webinar series - Kingston University Driver Youth Trust KUDYT - Department of Education - Kingston University London](#)

We are excited to continue our webinar series, **Stop Dyslexic Learners Underperforming in Schools**, designed to equip educational professionals and parents with the tools to better support dyslexic learners.

For those who attended our first webinar:

Thank you for your participation and the encouraging feedback. Here is a copy of the [slides](#) used, complete with links for further learning.

You can also watch the recording of the first webinar by clicking on this link:
[KUDYT Webinar Series - Why learning is hard for students that struggle with Literacy /dyslexia](#)

Second webinar in the series: "Stop dyslexic learners underperforming in exams"
[Please find copy of the slides here](#), complete with links to enable you to learn more.

Recording of "Stop dyslexic learners underperforming in exams" is [available on YouTube](#).

[Register Now for our January Webinar - Technology to overcome reading difficulties](#)
Tuesday 7th January 6-7pm, via MS Teams

[Overview of content of the five webinars in this series](#)

Recording of Dyslexia Awareness Week Masterclass

Thankyou for registering


@dyslexiclifewithjorees



Dyslexia Awareness masterclass 2024

We hope it helps you understand a bit more about Dyslexia, its challenges and its strengths. We hope it can support you in starting a discussion in your workplace, school or with friends or family.

Your access is [HERE](#)

Please do contact us now if you have any questions or require any further support.
Best wishes - Jo and the @DyslexiclifewithJoRees Team



AET Summit: Unmasking AI, Tech and its Place in the Classroom

On the 29th January, 12:30 - 4:00 PM, we are hosting an Online Summit!

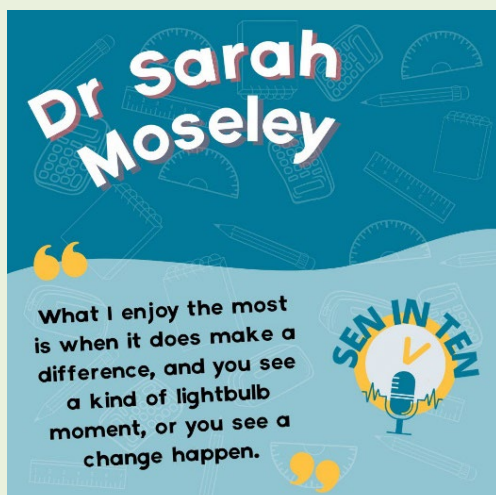
Are you ready to explore the transformative potential of AI and technology in creating inclusive learning environments?

Do you have concerns about the balance of AI and data bias that may be overlooked in considering autistic and neurodivergent learners?

Join us as we delve into the role of AI in shaping the future of education for neurodivergent learners.

If you are unable to make the event live, we will be offering all registrants a recording which you can watch at a time that suits you.

[View Agenda and Register Now](#)



[Sen in Ten](#)

Listen to the episode of the SEN in Ten podcast where our host [Darren C.](#) speaks to author, trainer, speaker and SEND consultant Dr Sarah Moseley.

Click the link to listen to the episode:
<https://ow.ly/PX8M50UeKbx>

You can also listen on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

At **The Neurodiversity Show 2025**, we're not just talking about change—we're pioneering it. Join us to explore cutting-edge innovations and strategies that are transforming how we approach neurodiversity in education, families, workplaces, and individual lives.



- **Education:** Lead the way with new teaching methods and tools that enhance the learning experiences of neurodivergent students.
- **Parents:** Advocate for systemic changes that provide better support and resources for families with neurodivergent children.
- **Individuals:** Discover how embracing innovation can help you thrive and unlock your potential.
- **Workplace Leaders:** Explore groundbreaking practices that leverage the strengths of neurodivergent employees to drive organisational success.

When: 9th–10th May 2025

Where: NEC Birmingham

[Register Now](#)

BRITISH DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION – WEBINAR RECORDINGS

**Dyslexia
Awareness
Week 2024**



British
Dyslexia
Association

#DAW24

[DAW 2024 Webinar - Understanding Dyslexia
PowerPoint Presentation](#)

**Dyslexia
Awareness
Week 2024**



British
Dyslexia
Association

#DAW24

[Daw 2024 Webinar - Multisensory Learning
PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Free Webinar

Dyslexia Awareness
for Early Years and Foundation Stage

British Dyslexia Association

[EYFS Webinar Autumn 2024](#)
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Free Webinar

Dyslexia Awareness
for Primary School
Aged Children

Literacy Gold

5 November 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Suitable for: Parents/Carers/Educators

[Dyslexia Awareness Primary Webinar](#)
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Free Webinar

Dyslexia Awareness
for Secondary School
Aged Students

The DyslexiaShop

18 November 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Suitable for: Parents/Carers/Educators

[Dyslexia Awareness Webinar Secondary Autumn](#)
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Free Webinar

Understanding Dyslexia
In the Workplace

British Dyslexia Association

[Free Webinar Workplace employees](#)
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

You can also find other helpful videos on the BDA [YouTube](#) Channel.

Our BDA Helpline Team are here to support you! If you prefer using social channels you can join us on Instagram live every last Tuesday of the month or DM us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. [Get in touch](#)

More useful links from the BDA . . .

Assisted Technology: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Factsheet for teachers: [BDA School Information Sheet](#)

[Dyslexia Style Guide 2023](#)

Introductions to helpful products and services: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Dyslexia, dyscalculia and other neurodiverse conditions](#)

BDA Training Programmes: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Types of reasonable adjustments: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[Workplace Information Sheet](#)

[Adult Checklist](#)



Explore our self-paced e-learning courses

Our e-learning courses provide a deep dive into SEND law for all experience levels. Each course includes downloadable resources and online exercises, guiding you step-by-step through essential topics in SEND law:

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

[E-learning for local authorities](#)

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

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



Free CPD training for teachers, SEND and support staff.

Dolphin offers CPD accredited training courses for educators, to help you further your knowledge of Dolphin SuperNova and Dolphin EasyReader Premium, so you can support students who use them.

Each course is free, held online and comes with an assessment, certificate, and a digital badge to recognise successful completion of the course.

Find out more, share with your colleagues and take a course at the Dolphin Learning Zone.

[Training Courses for Professionals](#)

8th January 2025 - 15:45 - 16:45

Specialist Spotlight: Understanding Executive Functioning

Primary - Online Discussion - Suitable for Assistant Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Head Teacher, Teacher, Tutor.

Book for FREE

10th January 2025 - 9:30 - 11:30

Meeting the Needs of Every Child

Early Years - Online Discussion – Suitable for Early Years Practitioner, Other, SENCO.

Book for FREE

13th January 2025 - 15:30 - 16:30

Specialist Spotlight: Understanding Executive Functioning

Online Discussion – Secondary/FE - Suitable for Assistant Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Head Teacher, Teacher, Tutor.

Book for FREE

15th January 2025 - 16:00 - 16:30

Twilight Talks: A War Widow's Story: How Military Bereavement Affects Children and Young People

Webinar – Any phase - Suitable for a parent/carer, Administration Staff, Assistant Head Teacher, Consultant, Deputy Head Teacher, Early Years Practitioner, Education psychologist, Governor, Head Teacher, Inclusion Manager/Leader, Newly Qualified Teacher, Other, SENCO, Senior Leader, Student, Support staff, Teacher, Teaching Assistant, Tutor, Young person.

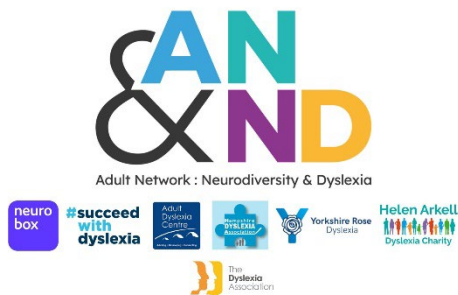
Book for FREE

17th January 2025 - 14:00 - 15:30

Positively Responding to Increasing Complexity in our Mainstream Schools Part 2: How to Secure a Process-driven Approach when Considering Additional Provisions in Mainstream Schools

Webinar – Any phase - Suitable for Assistant Head Teacher, Consultant, Deputy Head Teacher, Head Teacher, Senior Leader.

Book for FREE



Our sessions explore Dyslexia and Neurodiversity for Adults and their Families.

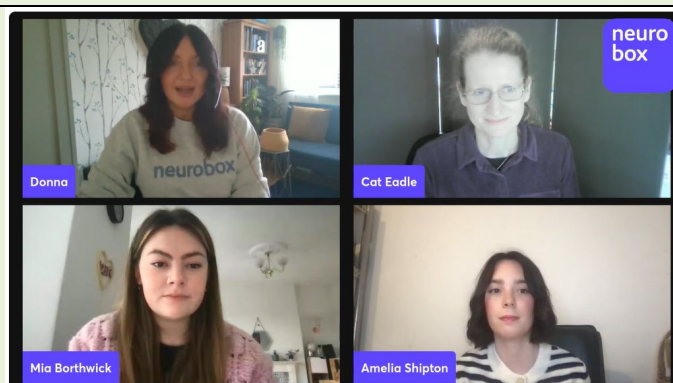
Our expert panel Donna Stevenson (SWD Ambassador), Sue Flohr MBE (Manager of Adult Dyslexia Centre), and Pat Payne (Chair of Yorkshire Rose Dyslexia Association), and Sue McKenna (Chair of Hampshire Dyslexia Association) will be informative, and we hope offer lots of advice.

ANND: My Neurodiversity Journey with John Hicks

Welcome to our free ANND webinar in which we will be exploring My Journey with Neurodiversity with John Hicks as he talked through his work as a Neurodivergent Aware Therapeutic Counsellor and Coach. John shared lots of wisdom around the importance of compassionate listening to our community.

ANND: Neurodiversity Inspires Me! With Arron Ashton

Arron Ashton shares his journey with Neurodiversity including the inspiration behind create his fashion designs. Arron's story as a Neurodivergent Entrepreneur is both moving and powerful, please do check out his work at FoolTwentyTwo: <https://lnkd.in/eMdyV7WV>



Let's Talk Living with Dyscalculia

In this **Let's Talk** session, Donna Stevenson speak with Cat Eadle from The Dyscalculia Network, along with Mia Borthwick and Amelia Shipton, who have both worked closely with The Dyscalculia Network, and share their own lived experiences with dyscalculia.

Dyscalculia Network

Check out our new events page! We wanted to make it easier to navigate and so we have transformed it to a calendar view so it should be a bit easier to find our upcoming events. You can also link it to your own calendar to help you keep track. Let us know your thoughts, we are always looking to improve!

Dyscalculia Network | Leading Support Network for Dyscalculia



Social events can be uniquely challenging. We can help.

Going to parties, crowded spaces, or formal events can be challenging for families. [Learn strategies](#) to help ease everyone's anxieties and make events go as smoothly as possible.

Help kids feel comfortable in their clothes.

Formal clothing might be a must for certain services and ceremonies. But some kids have sensory challenges that make it hard for them to get through events while wearing [clothes that are stiff, tight, or scratchy](#).

Consider bringing distractions and stress relievers.

Your child may have to sit longer than they're used to. Or be in situations that feel overwhelming and uncomfortable. Support your child by bringing small, quiet toys or tools for them to play with. [Fidget tools](#), colouring books, and stress balls can be helpful distractions.

Have an exit plan.

Sometimes, no matter what you do, events just get to be *too much*. It can help your own stress if you think ahead of time about how you'll react to certain situations.

Practice and set expectations.

Some events can put kids (and you) out of their comfort zones. Before you go, talk together about the event. Let them know what to expect — the location, if it'll be [noisy or crowded](#), and who will be there.

Prepare for unfamiliar foods.

Food can be a big part of many events. Your child may be offered food they've never tried before. Or meals prepared differently than they're used to. Many kids have [food sensitivities](#), aversions, or allergies.

Be kind to yourself.

It can be tough when you have expectations for an event, and then it goes differently. Maybe you prepared so carefully, but something still caught you off-guard. You might feel let down or disappointed. Your feelings are valid, too.

You're being a great parent by setting your child up for success. Even if things didn't go as planned, remember: You're doing your best. Your child can feel when you're on their team.

After events, you and your child may each need to decompress. Think of ways to relax (together or independently). Put on a good movie, eat a comfort meal, or take a long bath. You deserve it.

Dyslexia: a new definition, a new era?

It is a momentous time in the dyslexia world. For the first time in dyslexia's almost 150 years of history, multiple stake holders found consensus on a new definition of this condition which has caused controversy for as many years.

In this blog, I outline how dyslexia's turbulent past has influenced the present, with reference to the resilience of dyslexia's advocates (especially mothers). For me, the new definition is a positive marker of how far we have come in both agreement and understanding.

However, I am deeply concerned about the continuing inequity across UK state schools. It is simply wrong that children whose parents can pay have access to identification of a need that is so prevalent and disabling in school, while many others are left on the heap.

Read on at [Dyslexia: a new definition, a new era? - Louise Selby Dyslexia Specialist](#)



What does Budget 2024 mean for your school?

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has delivered the first Labour Budget in 14 years.

It's come with a number of changes for schools— some expected, some welcomed... and some that are divisive. This week, we're breaking down exactly what the new Budget means for your school as we head into 2025 together.

Headlines below . . . full article at [What does Budget 2024 mean for your school?](#)

1. We'll see a £2.3 billion increase go to core schools funding!
2. There's a £1 billion uplift for SEND.
3. Private schools to lose their VAT exemption status in January 2025
4. ...Which could spell trouble for SEND learners, schools and parents.
5. There's a £300 million boost for Further Education (FE).
6. And the DfE will get support for National Insurance increases.



Buying Gifts for Kids With Dyslexia | Succeed With Dyslexia

As Christmas is nearing are you still looking for the perfect gift for a child with dyslexia?

Our guide offers thoughtful, supportive ideas that can enhance learning, creativity, and confidence to help every child thrive this Christmas 🎄

#succeed with dyslexia Digest

[4 work mantras for thriving with dyslexia this December! | LinkedIn](#)

[Attention, Recruiters! Here's what dyslexic folks want you to know. | LinkedIn](#)

[Professional qualifications when you've got dyslexia | LinkedIn](#)



[Neurodiversity 101: From Evolution to Innovation: Why Neurodiversity is a vital asset for society](#)

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

Modern Pathfinders

I have been thinking about this a lot!

Why do we have conditions like dyslexia, ADHD, and autism in the population and why do they persist?

I think they can be partly explained by several genetic and evolutionary considerations. However, society has often viewed people who were away from the societal norm through a lens of deficits as we didn't always fit into the expectations of how to act, communicate or think.

We have designed for the past 100 years education and employment taking technical principles for its design. This was having a system which allowed us to provide a means of delivery for bulk education and bulk approaches to recruitment. This design then favoured certain 'shapes of people' who were able to thrive into these systems. If you could sit still, write neatly, remember facts you did well.

Read full article at [Neurodiversity 101: From Evolution to Innovation: Why Neurodiversity is a vital asset for society](#)

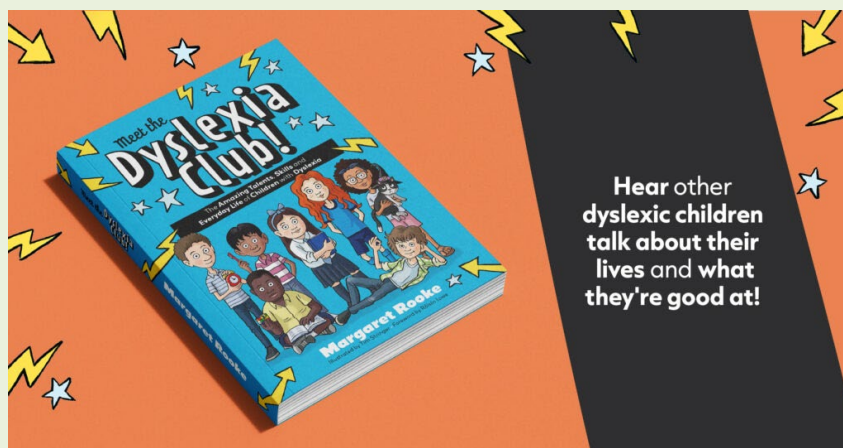
See also:

[Neurodiversity 101: Unlocking potential: Neuroinclusive Interviewing strategies every employer should know.](#)

[Neurodiversity 101: Navigating new work settings and new people | LinkedIn](#)

How to support a child with dyslexia to discover their strengths - JKP Blog

How to support a child with dyslexia to discover their strengths. Margaret Rooke is the author of [Meet the Dyslexia Club!](#) and the parent of a dyslexic daughter.



If our children seem to be struggling with reading, writing and spelling, it's all too easy to fill our minds with fears about their future. A large dose of anxiety can so often feel like something that lands uninvited on our doorstep when we become parents.

The truth is that our children will also have talents and skills, though we may not have taken in how significant these are.

It can feel so tempting to focus on what we hope will help them get through their spelling tests and SATS but, as well as their schoolwork, it's vital to encourage them to pay attention to what comes easily to them.

These are the aspects of life that they are obviously motivated to do. We all – young and old – have strengths. We need to encourage these in our children, giving them time and space to develop and to feel good about themselves, now and in the future. Some of these strengths are thought to come naturally to those with dyslexia.

I spoke to a lot of young children for my latest book, *Meet The Dyslexia Club! The Amazing Talents, Skills and Everyday Life of Children with Dyslexia*. I asked them what they most wanted from the adults around them.

“Let me do more of what I enjoy, like looking after animals,” said one. “Look out for what we’re good at and encourage us to do that,” said another. “Have some fun with us,” said a third.

When children did mention help with schoolwork, they were very specific:

‘Help me read the things that interest me, like football match reports and instructions for games,’ and, ‘Give us loads of time to finish what we’re doing. Understand we’re going as quickly as we can.’

If you're concerned about how your children are doing at school, of course it's important to make time to talk to your child's teacher and work out together what can be done to help.

However, it's vital to remember that those elements of life they excel at naturally may not be covered by the school curriculum, but they may help them flourish in the world of work after they leave.

So how do we inspire our children to do their very best in those areas they love?

- Encourage them to spend time on their hobbies. This will help them find ways to increase their knowledge and skillset.
- Their talents can be obvious, like being good at art or sport. They can be hobbies or personality traits it's easy to take for granted – anything from being a natural and contented cook, to being a kind, trustworthy and understanding friend, or letting their minds run free as a storyteller. In fact all of these can lead to different careers, from being a chef to being a counsellor.
- Look out for personality traits, like the ability to stay focused on a task or understanding the importance of compromise – both so important in many lines of work.
- When you spot these strengths, talk about them with your child. Observe the specifics of what they're good at and talk about these to encourage them further.
- Give yourself credit for what comes naturally to you as a successful adult, all those qualities that enable you to live a rounded life. Remember, our children so often copy what they see us do, not what we ask them to do.
- Have fun with your children. Allow them to forget about life's difficulties, helping them to bring these into perspective.
- And together take a look at *Meet The Dyslexia Club! The Amazing Talents, Skills and Everyday Life of Children with Dyslexia*. This is a book based on the words of young children. As these children explore the talents and skills they've spotted in themselves, your own child will be encouraged to identify similar strengths within themselves. Together you can recognise ways they can shine.

Read more about [Meet The Dyslexia Club! The Amazing Talents, Skills and Everyday Life of Children with Dyslexia](#) where you will meet a group of dyslexic children who talk about their lives, what their schooldays are like and what they are great at.

[I'm dyslexic. This is how 'dyslexic thinking' can future-proof your career](#) [fastcompany.com](https://www.fastcompany.com)

[Kate Griggs](#)



In the new AI revolution world, we're finding that AI thinking is the perfect co-pilot to Dyslexic Thinking. It's removing barriers and turbocharging our innovation and creativity.

Read the 5 reasons why in my article for [Fast Company](#)

And learn what you can do to Empower Dyslexic Thinking At Work in our free, 1hr, course available now on LinkedIn Learning (no subscription required)

Train here: <https://lnkd.in/eBecWq8P>

Article here: <https://lnkd.in/er-pG9MB>

RESOURCES



If you're looking for ideas for what to do with your cheeky Christmas elf this December, you're in the right place!

We've got a ready-made calendar which includes 24 wonderful Christmas elf ideas with an example image for each.

[Click here to get some ideas!](#)

[Check out our new website!](#)

We run [live webinars](#) each month to showcase solutions and their features.

We also provide all DSA Assessors and student advisors a recommendation guide to assist you during needs assessments.

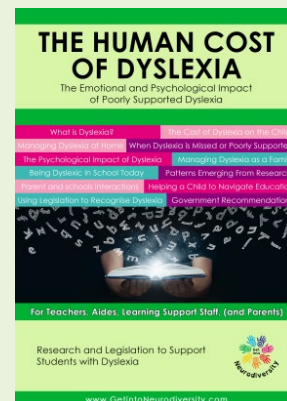


You can also see some of our product demonstrations on [this playlist](#).



The Human Cost of Dyslexia The emotional and psychological impact of poorly supported dyslexia

Now available – the whole series of [FREE ARTICLES](#)



Fluency and Rapid Reading Methods

Introduction to Reading Fluency

How to support accuracy and the ease of reading

The FIRST article in a BRAND NEW series on is NOW AVAILABLE.

[CLICK HERE >> To download it!](#)

These articles are free for you to download and print out.

	<p>See Religious Education for more seasonal packs.</p> <p>Christmas Cards 3 ready to print and fold Christmas card designs. Also 'colour your own' versions available.</p>
	<p>Greeting Card Stickers Greetings card messages for printing onto Avery labels from Microsoft Word Templates.</p>
	<p>Christmas Pack Christmas with Widgit Symbols, a range of fun activities for KS1, KS2 and Special Schools students.</p>
	<p>Christmas Communication Pack Symbol-supported resources to support social interaction during the festive period.</p>
	<p>Advent Calendar Activity This free activity allows children to create their own advent calendars this Christmas.</p>
	<p>Winter Pack Winter with Widgit Symbols, 32 fun activities for KS1, KS2 and Special Schools students.</p>
	<p>Winter Weather Free activities, stories and worksheets relating to the weather in winter.</p>



Here are a few extracts from . . .

Christmas Top Tips for Adults

During this busy season, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. To help make things easier, we've put together our top tips for dyslexic adults to help you through the festivities.

[Download your copy here](#)

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Children like to send and receive cards. Here are some ideas to help:

- Write the names onto the envelopes so that your child can copy them into the card, as spelling names can be tricky.
- Look for smaller cards so there is just space to write who it is to and from.
- Buy some card kits so your child can make personalised cards, draw a picture or make something and just add their name to it. Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles love to receive children's artwork.
- Explore digital options – Twinkl has some resources to help children create a digital Christmas card.

Give the gift of understanding! [Donate](#)

PLANNING AND ORGANISATION

Christmas is a busy time, with lots of additional activities, events and deadlines. Here are some handy tips to help ensure you remember everything so that you can relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

- Use a digital or visual planner. Allocate time to sit down and highlight all the important dates and activities that are happening.
- Add in any deadlines including Christmas posting dates and lasts dates for ordering presents and food.
- Develop a system of colour coding so that you can identify different tasks at a glance. For example, you might allocate RED for gifts you are giving, GREEN for shopping and BLUE for food.
- Create a daily dated TO DO list and cross off completed tasks as you go.
- Use a calendar app or phone with alerts to remind you of important events and deadlines.
- Create a digital Christmas card or make a donation to your favourite charity (BDA!) instead of handwriting cards.
- Create a shopping list of all the food and gifts you need to buy – or set up favourites on your online grocery accounts so that you can add things as you think of them.

Top Tips for supporting Children

Every child should experience the joy of writing a letter to Santa without stress.




Download our Top Tips for Supporting Children with Dyslexia this festive season.

[Download your copy here](#)

LETTERS TO SANTA



Writing to Santa should be fun, but many dyslexic children find writing difficult and try to avoid written tasks. Here are some ideas to put back the fun:






-  Santa is great at decoding spellings, so let your child spell words their own way or offer to help them with tricky words. You could even turn it into a fun game and let them 'ask' your phone or mobile device how to spell.
-  Dispense with writing and draw or paint pictures of their wish list or get creative and cut out photos from magazines. Many shops have free leaflets and booklets with plenty of pictures advertising their Christmas present ideas which are ideal for kids to cut out and stick on.
-  Go digital – check out the growing number of free and paid for Apps and websites offering the chance for children to record a short video or phone message for Santa.

Give the gift of understanding! [Donate](#)

CHRISTMAS PLAYS



Many dyslexic children love to perform, and a school Christmas play can be a great introduction to the performing arts. But learning and remembering lines can be stressful. Here are some tips to help your Christmas Star shine bright:




-  Multi-sensory learning helps. Read through the script with your child and help them highlight their lines with their favourite colour.
-  Ask if the school can provide a digital copy of the script so that you can use built in screen reading technology on a laptop or download Apps like Speechify to your phone.
-  Read and act out the play with your child so they know their part and where their lines appear in the play.
-  Record lines onto a mobile device so that they can listen to the words, as well as reading them from the script.
-  Don't worry if they're not word perfect. Teachers are always on hand to support on the night, and the audience never notice anyway!

Give the gift of understanding! [Donate](#)

LEARNING WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND SONGS

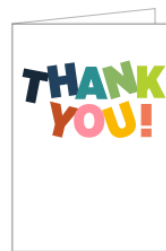


Christmas carols are full of unfamiliar words and can be tricky to read. It can be helpful to learn the words off by heart so that your child doesn't have to rely on decoding them as they sing. Here are some hints and tips to help your child navigate a school carol service or concert:






-  Ask school for a copy of the songs that your child will be singing. Read them through together and help with any tricky words.
-  Find Youtube videos or websites where you can listen to the songs. Many of these have words appearing on the screen. This multi-sensory approach of seeing and hearing the words can help with learning and committing the words to memory.
-  Play the carols and songs in the car and at home and sing along so that your child has many opportunities for these to be embedded into their memory.

Give the gift of understanding! [Donate](#)

CHRISTMAS NOTES



People love to receive a personal thank you, but writing can be stressful for dyslexic children. Here are some ideas to help:

-  Buy small cards so that there is only space for a short message.
-  Write a simple message that your child can copy.
-  Let your child make a personalised card or paint a picture of the gift so that you focus on the artwork rather than the writing.
-  Take a photo of your child with their gift and send digitally or print off and post.
-  Phone calls and visiting people to say thank you in person can be less stressful.

Give the gift of understanding! [Donate](#)

10 ways to create an Inclusive Festive Classroom...

The festive season brings many changes to the school environment which can be overwhelming for many autistic children and young people.

- ✓ Autistic learners can feel very unsettled with changes to their environment – consider adding festive decorations to the classroom gradually
- ✓ Create ‘decoration-free zones’ accessible to autistic students to spend time in if they need to
- ✓ Increased levels of excited noise may be uncomfortable for autistic pupils. Make sure they have access to resources such as ear defenders and fidget/stim toys to help support self-regulation
- ✓ Allow for more frequent breaks for quiet ‘alone-time’ and/or sensory calming breaks to support emotional and sensory regulation
- ✓ Give advanced warning of any festive changes to the usual daily routine, timetable and school processes
- ✓ Give a copy of your festive timetable to your autistic students to have in advance at home so they can prepare for any new events each day with family support
- ✓ Consider using visual aids such as a calendar and a timetable to show when planned festive events will happen
- ✓ ‘Christmas lunch’ may be a welcome menu change, but brings new canteen smells. Allow autistic pupils access to a separate eating space if they prefer
- ✓ A ‘surprise visit’ from Father Christmas can be very frightening for younger autistic children in particular. Plan and prepare a step-by-step explanation of ‘Santa’s visit’ to support understanding and reduce anxiety. Use visual aids if/where appropriate (eg. a ‘social story’).
- ✓ If you’re planning a festive dressing up day (eg. Christmas jumpers), be aware that autistic pupils may be sensitive to changes to clothing. Give advance notice, and consider the use of visual aids to help explain what changes might look like.

This is an example list and should not be regarded as comprehensive.
Reasonable adjustments should be based on the profile of the autistic child or young person you are working with.

www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

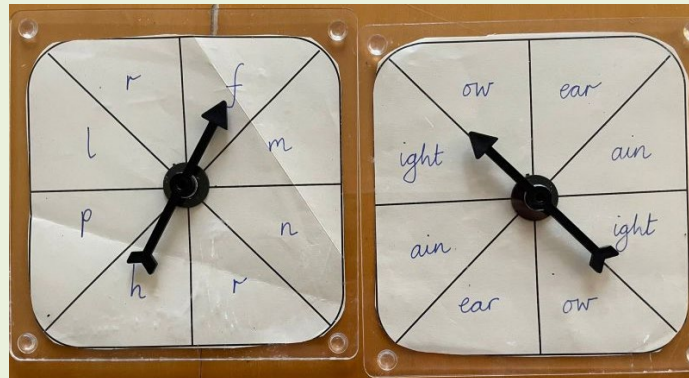
[Download your copy](#)

This is a great game for practising phonics and word building.

Choose whatever phonics your child is working on. Players take turn to spin both spinners. If they can make a word, they must spell it for a point. First to correctly write 5 words wins.

I get these spinners from Crossbow Education for £5 and my blank spinner bases are the exact size to fit. They can be used for so many things!

The spinner bases are free to download here: <https://lnkd.in/e-r6B3gj>



FREE Maths Resources!

Rob Jennings from the Dyscalculia Network led a highly engaging session at the Isle of Wight conference and it drew my attention to the free resources offered by the Dyscalculia Network. I recommend taking a look: [Tin Times Tables! - Dyscalculia Network](#)

And on the subject of dyscalculia . . .

I LOVE this blog from Jet Lewin, dyscalculia specialist, about maths difficulties across the curriculum. Well worth a read - we know so little about this area.

[Read the blog](#)

contact For families
with disabled children

Free festive fun from Fledglings

As well as [our Fledglings shop](#) being packed to the brim with toys, clothing and equipment for children with additional needs, it also offers you and your family FREE entertainment.

Head over to [our Christmas Downloads Collection](#) where you can access a variety of festive puzzles, colouring sheets, and more.

A NEW Resource Created by our Autistic Young Experts Terminology Guide: Why Words Matter

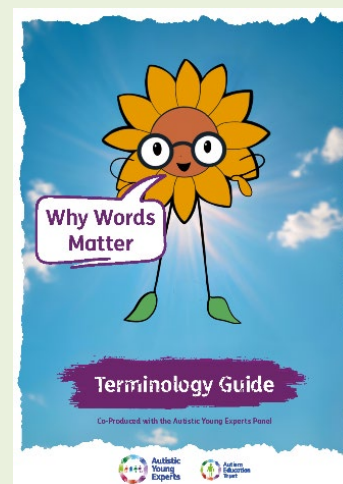
**The Terminology Guide is more than a resource
- it's a call for change!**

This Guide, co-produced by our Autistic Young Experts (AYE) is intended to help educators shift from deficit-focused to strengths-based language, promoting understanding and inclusion for autistic students.

By adopting inclusive language, practitioners can reshape perceptions, foster acceptance, and help autistic students feel valued.

We encourage all educators to read the Autistic Young Experts 'Why Words Matter' Terminology Guide and embed change in language that empowers our autistic students and creates classrooms where every learner feels valued.

[Download the Terminology Guide: Why Words Matter](#)



December's Maths Calendar for Students

Each day brings a fresh, fun puzzle - exploring algebra, geometry, and problem-solving skills in an engaging way. Perfect for sparking curiosity and building confidence in maths. Don't miss this chance to make maths exciting and interactive for your students.



Click below to download December's calendar and keep the maths magic alive!

[Download your free December calendar for Grade 5 students](#)

[Download your free December calendar for Grade 6-8 students](#)

[Download your free December calendar for Grade 9-12 students](#)

Please pass on to your colleagues and parents of students.



[SEN Books: Expanding the Impact of Specialist SEND Resources](#)

Explore how SEN Books has grown and how our partnership with SEND Group is helping us deliver even more support to the SEND community.

[Read More](#)



The SENDCo Calendar – Your Year-Round Planning Tool

The **SENDCo Calendar** is here to help you stay organised, compliant, and effective throughout the academic year. Whether you're managing daily tasks or planning long-term SEND strategies, this tool ensures you stay on top of it all.

- **Structured Planning:** Month-by-month guidance, tasks, and responsibilities.
- **Ready-to-Use Resources:** Downloadable templates and expert insights.
- **MySENCO Community:** Collaborate with other SEND professionals.

Choose Your Plan:

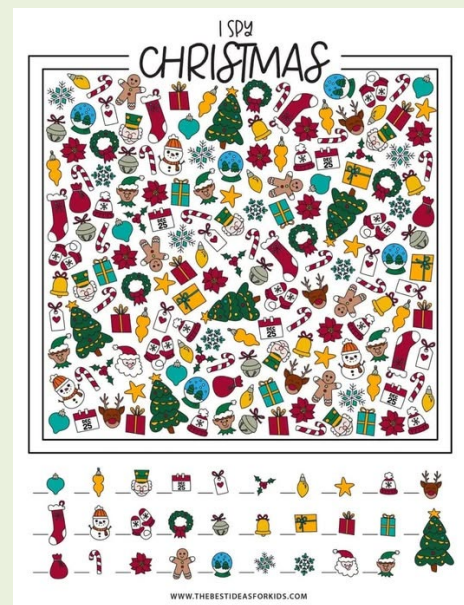
- **Free Version:** Access the full calendar and join the MySENCO community.
- **Premium Subscription (£3.99/month or £39/year):** Full access to resources, expert articles, and more.

[Sign Up Today](#)

The Best Ideas for Kids

I SPY Christmas 🎅🌲 (Free Printables)

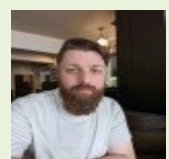
<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/i-spy-christmas/>



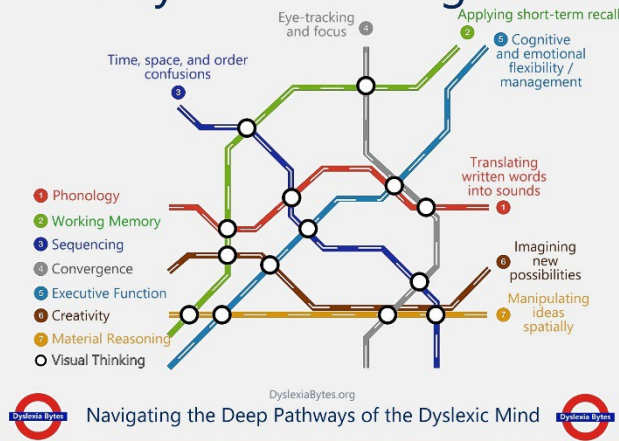
The Science of Early Literacy Implementation | HMH

[Luke Mansfield - Sales Specialist at Scanning Pens](#)

Effective early literacy strategies are essential for children's academic growth and confidence! Investing in the right strategies can set the stage for lifelong learning and engagement.



The Dyslexia Underground



Dyslexia Bytes

To explore all sorts of aspects of dyslexia, from intercultural perspectives to dyslexia around the world, to scientific theories (made simple), to first-hand comments, to dealing with dyslexia as educators and businesses, to downright crusading facts about dyslexia and mental health, homelessness, and prison, please visit my website: <https://dyslexiabytes.org/>

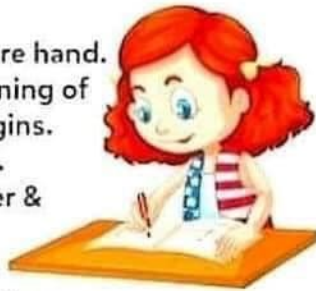
And while you're there, let me know which of the infographics you prefer. I've always loved The Dyslexia Underground!

DYSGRAPHIA:

A learning difficulty specific to writing.

Symptoms:

- ★ Cramped grip, sore hand.
- ★ Poor spacial planning of sentences & margins.
- ★ Frequent erasing.
- ★ Inconsistent letter & word spacing.
- ★ Poor spelling, missing words/letters.



DYSLEXIA:

A learning difficulty specific to reading.

Symptoms:

- ★ Slow and labour-intensive reading
- ★ Difficulty reading aloud
- ★ Mispronounces words
- ★ Problems retrieving words
- ★ Problems writing & spelling



DYSCALCULIA:

A learning difficulty specific to mathematics.

Symptoms:

- ★ Difficulty identifying number patterns e.g. place value, quantity, positive or negative value, carrying/borrowing.
- ★ Difficulty understanding & doing word problems.
- ★ Difficulty sequencing information or events.
- ★ Difficulty using steps in math operations

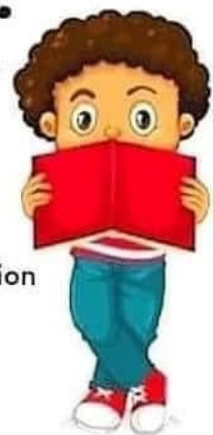


DYSPRAXIA:

A learning difficulty specific to fine &/or gross motor.

Symptoms:

- ★ Difference in speech
- ★ Perception problems
- ★ Poor hand-eye coordination
- ★ Poor balance & posture
- ★ Clumsiness
- ★ Fatigue



Huge congratulations to Pam Tomlinson who has won the BDA's Lifetime Achievement Award!

It was presented to her at the recent BDA Annual Awards ceremony celebrating inspiring individuals and inclusive organisations.

You can see the photographs and find out about the winners [here](#).

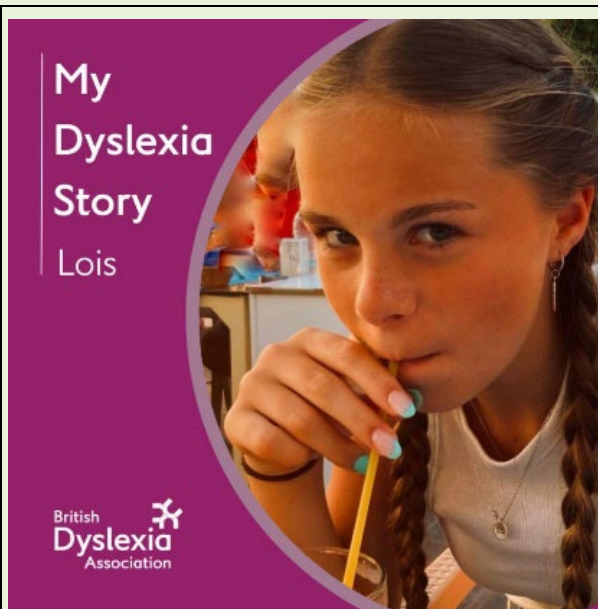


Pamela Tomalin left school at 15 with no qualifications but used her practical skills to establish an international interior design and manufacturing business, which she ran until 2018. In 1999, she returned to education, despite not knowing she was dyslexic, and earned a Level 4 qualification in 'Information Advice and Guidance Practitioner' and a Diploma in Management Studies from the University of Northampton. She also completed a BDA Level 4 qualification as a Workplace Needs Assessor.

Pam has been involved with dyslexia advocacy since 2010, serving as Chair of the Northamptonshire & Buckinghamshire Dyslexia Association. In 2014, she joined the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) Management Board as a Local Association Trustee, a role she held until 2023. She actively volunteered at conferences and events, contributing her time and expertise to BDA initiatives.

Pam's career also includes accomplishments outside of dyslexia advocacy. She was a founding member of the Federation of Small Businesses in 1974 and contributed to the development of Business Link in 1999. Additionally, she worked as a Princes' Trust Advisor and successfully delivered a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) contract for the 'Training for Work' program. Drawing on her experience as an Adult Careers Advice Practitioner and Skills Coach, Pam created and delivered a European Social Fund pilot program to help unemployed individuals with dyslexia find employment. She also secured funding for two local training programs for parents of dyslexic children. Partnering with the Peterborough Dyslexia Association, she organised sessions on reading, writing, spelling, homework, working with schools, and assistive technology.

As a Matrix Champion, Pam trained helpline volunteers and led her team to achieve the prestigious DfE Matrix Standard Quality Framework Award for their Information, Advice, and Guidance services. Recognising declining support for Local Dyslexia Associations, Pam organised a successful conference with the BDA. It featured sessions for educators and parents, filling 300 seats and increasing membership. The event's success led her to replicate the format in other regions, including Peterborough and Cambridge, strengthening dyslexia support efforts.



[British Dyslexia Association](#)

Lois loves school and has a curious mind however she struggles to keep up with her teachers' instructions, which she finds overwhelming at times. But understanding that her "mind works differently" and the support from her teachers is helping her thrive.

Read the full story here:

<https://bit.ly/3YRET6i>



[Keira Knightley says daughter has dyslexia and reflects on her own struggles with condition | The Standard](#)

[Keira Knightley](#), who has battled [dyslexia](#) since she was six, has revealed that her daughter has also been diagnosed with the condition.

The 39-year-old actress discussed her methods for memorising lines and shared how her daughter's approach mirrors her own.

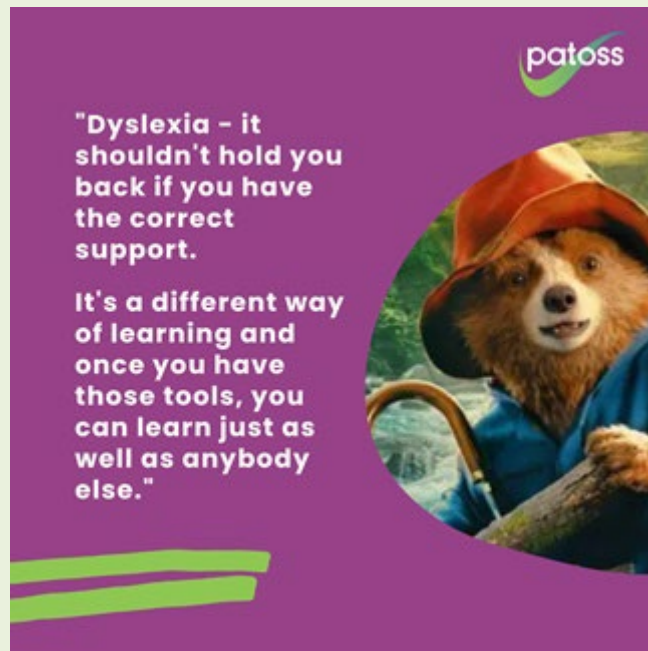
She shared: "I still find sight-reading really hard. It really bounces [the text], but I record it and listen to it over and over. That's how I learn it.

"Now, we have a dyslexic kid, and she's doing the same thing. Her memory is absolutely amazing."

Knightley and her husband, former Klaxons singer [James Righton](#), 40, have two daughters—Edie, eight, and Delilah, four.

While Knightley didn't specify which child has the language-based learning disability, the couple marveled at their daughter's ability to memorise books.

Speaking on the [Ruthie's Table 4 podcast](#), they said: "She'll look at books and would have memorised the book, and it's amazing."



James Lamont, co-screenwriter of *Paddington* in Peru, proves that dyslexia does not **stop creativity**. Despite struggling with reading and spelling as a child, he says with the right support, anyone can achieve their dreams—like writing movies!

James told the BBC, "It is a different way of learning and once you have those tools, you can learn just as well as anybody else ...as I went on, you realise that those skills don't stop you being creative or stop you being able to get your ideas across on a page. That is something that I say to a lot of the kids at my children's school - does a writer need to know how to spell?"

Read the article in full via [BBC News here](#).

"When I was diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of 10, it came as a huge relief. I'd been feeling like I was stupid and somehow worse than my classmates, and I didn't understand why. But with the diagnosis, everything clicked into place. I knew I wasn't worse than everyone else - I was just different."

— Mollie King, Radio 1 presenter



BBC Radio 1 DJ Mollie King has spoken out about having dyslexia - she is an ambassador for the British Dyslexic Association and has given a speech in Parliament in front of a group who were looking at learning difficulties.

Excerpt from [What's it like to have dyslexia? - BBC Newsround](#)

And finally . . .

[Dyslexic thinking skills are mission critical for protecting the country - GCHQ.GOV.UK](https://www.gchq.gov.uk/dyslexic-thinking-skills-are-mission-critical-for-protecting-the-country)

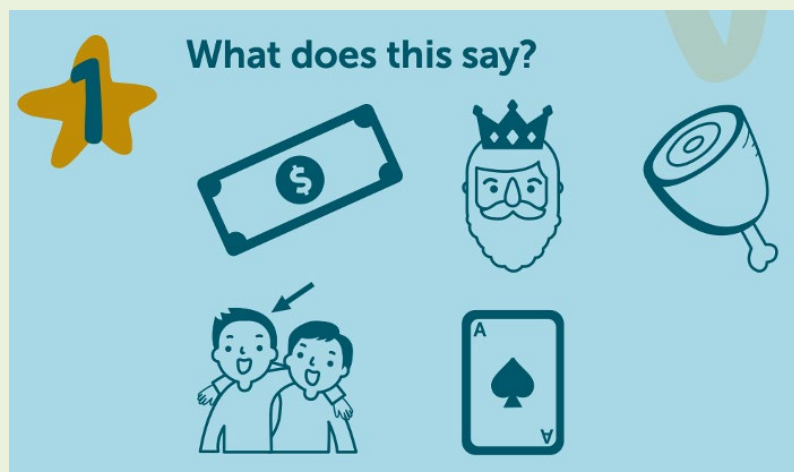
Apprentices on GCHQ's scheme are four times more likely to have dyslexia than those on other organisations' programmes, the agency has said - the result of a drive to recruit those whose brains process information differently.

I therefore thought it appropriate that I include their 2024 Christmas Challenge!

We are delighted to release our annual Christmas Challenge and both children and adults alike are encouraged to give it a try.

The focus this year is the surprising geography of GCHQ, which many people won't realise operates from several sites across the UK including Manchester, London, Scarborough, Bude and our iconic headquarters in Cheltenham.

You can download this year's Christmas Challenge at
[The GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2024 - GCHQ.GOV.UK](https://www.gchq.gov.uk/dyslexic-thinking-skills-are-mission-critical-for-protecting-the-country)



The first - and easiest - question features five images, representing a place name.

An orange banner for easyfundraising. It says "Wiltshire Dyslexia Association has raised £42.41 so far" with a money bag icon. There is a "Sign up" button and a small logo for the Wiltshire Dyslexia Association.

I've entered Wiltshire Dyslexia Association into easyfundraising's Advent Calendar prize draw for a chance to win a £100 donation!

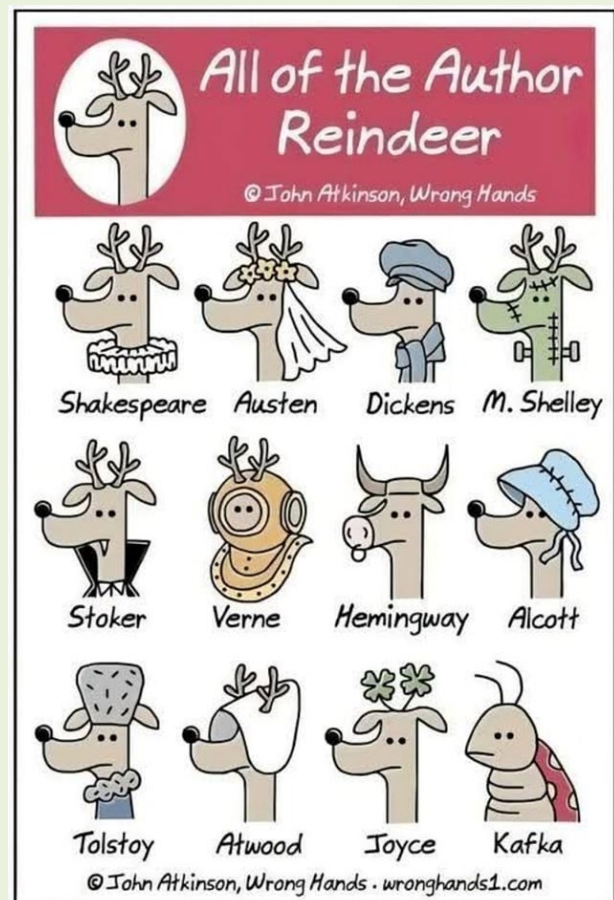
There are daily £100+ donations up for grabs that could make a tree-mendous difference.

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 today and you can raise free donations for Wiltshire Dyslexia Association every time you shop online for last minute gifts, festive food shops and more!

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

Please sign up here:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/wiltshiredyslexia/0XRQZC/c2s/FZ9Up2Ac/CE947/facebook/>



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WDA details - see our [flyer](#)



[Wiltshire Dyslexia Association](#)

[Wiltshire Council Dyslexia Leaflet 2023](#)

[British Dyslexia Association](#)

[BDA Guide for Parents](#)

[BDA Employers Guide](#)

[BDA Employees Guide](#)

[Resources - British Dyslexia Association](#)