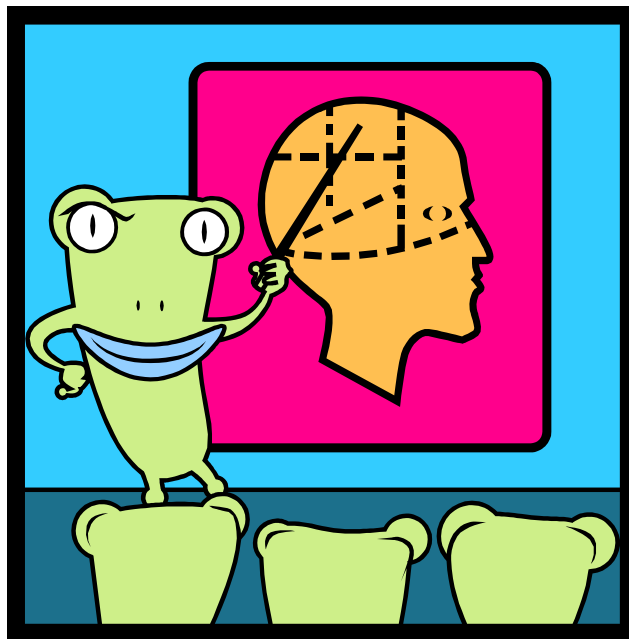


# Dyslexia

How Can We Help You Learn?



# Student Booklet

## Dyslexia

### What is it?

Dyslexia means 'difficulty with words'. It can affect the ability to read, spell and write. It can also affect the processing of information, motor skills, sequencing, short-term memory, left/right orientation and awareness of time.

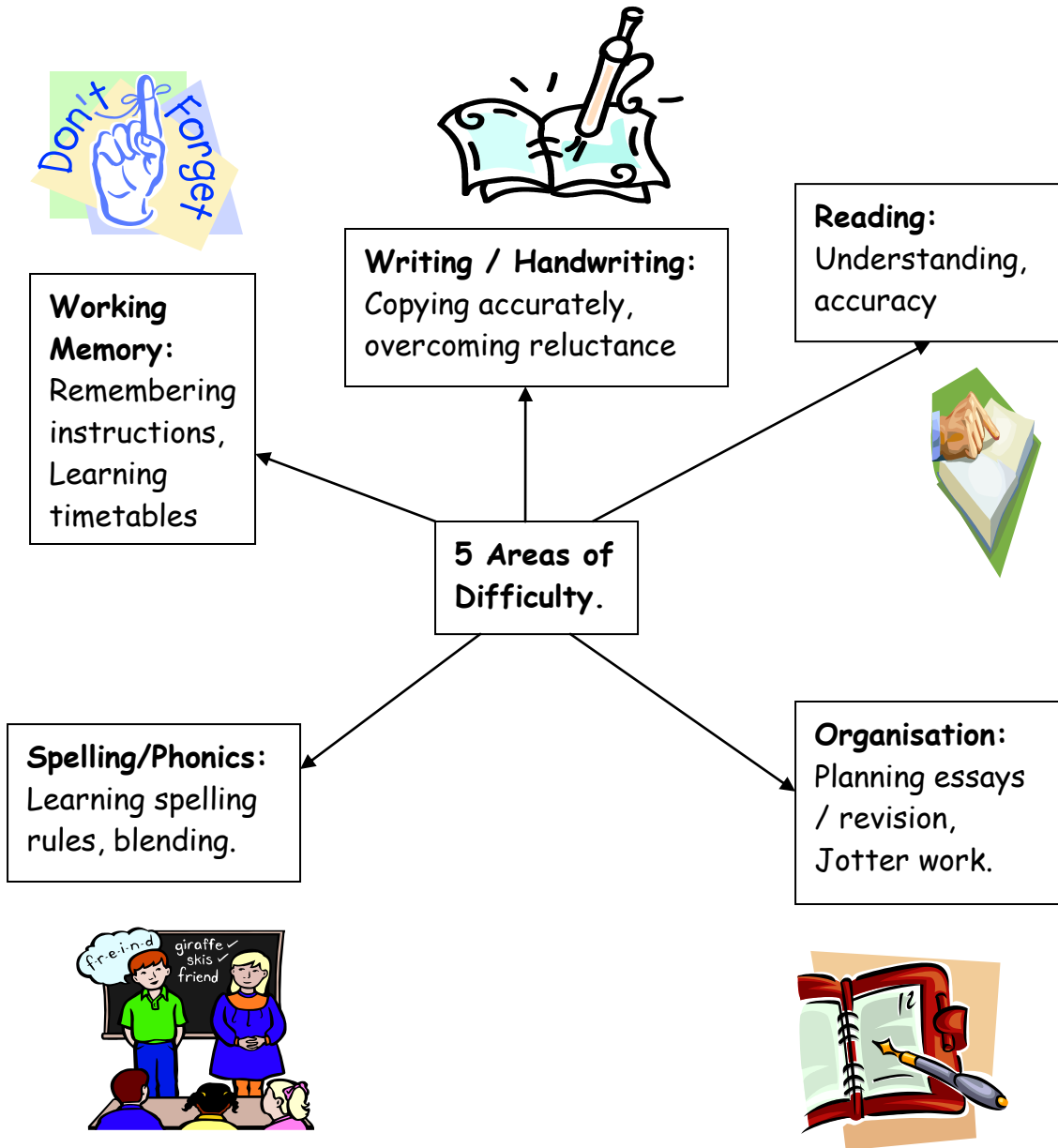


Dyslexia is a neurological condition that can run in families. It is more common in males than females. The symptoms change with age and experience but dyslexia does not go away. Each person has a different pattern of difficulties. Typically, the poor literary skills of dyslexic students mask their intelligence and ability.

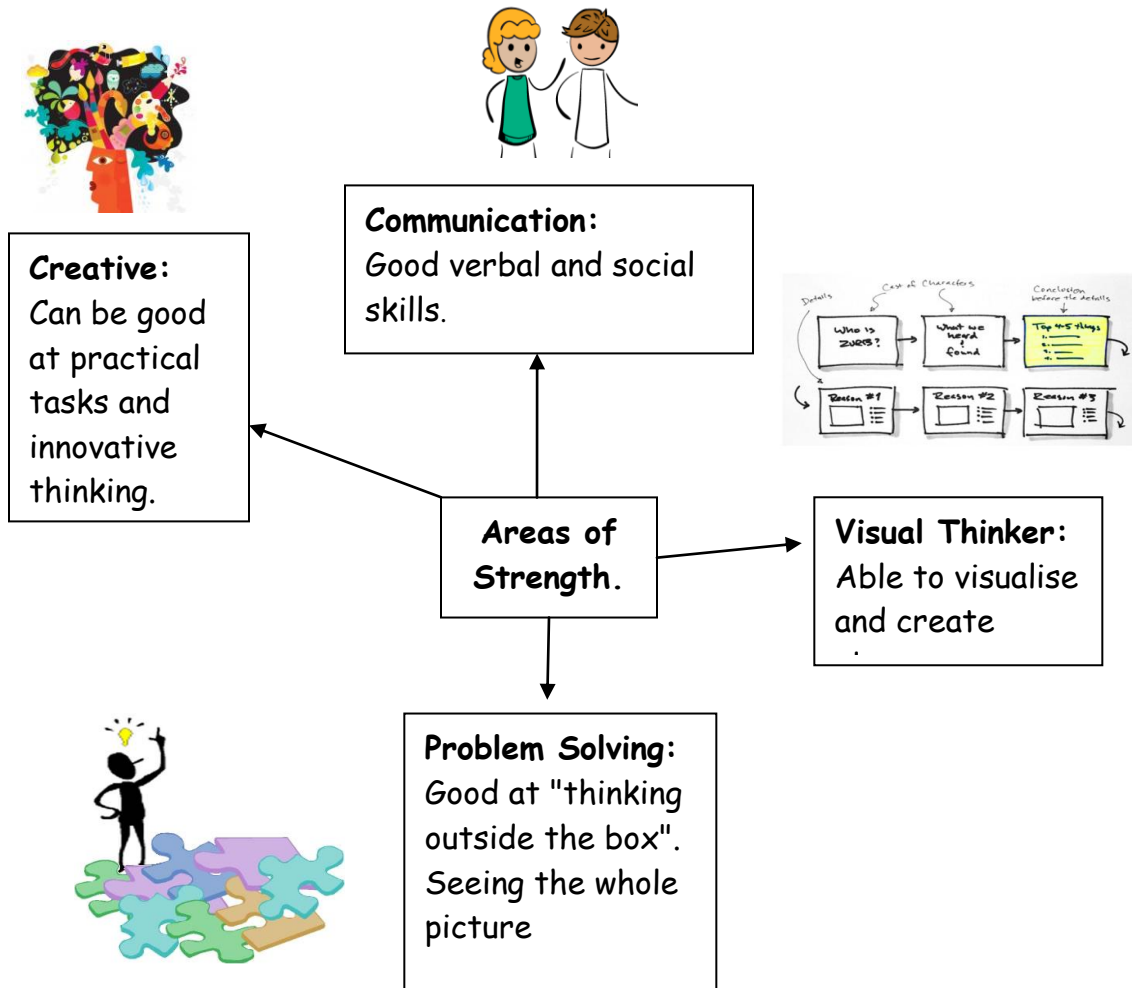
About 10% of the population are estimated to have some degree of dyslexia. About 4% experience severe dyslexia. It is found at every level of learning ability. The Equality Act acknowledges dyslexia as a disability.

(Dyslexia Scotland, What is dyslexia?)

## Five Areas of Difficulty Associated with Dyslexia.



## Areas of Strengths Associated with Dyslexia.

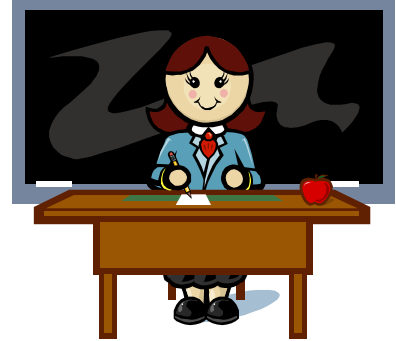


(Dyslexia Scotland, What is dyslexia?).

## Dyslexia and learning:

- **Approach to learning**

You are often 'whole picture' thinkers. You need to know how your new learning will fit in with what you already know. You often have excellent visual-spatial skills, and like to attach information to images.



- **Learning styles**

You often learn best through a multi-sensory approach combining visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles. Or put more simplistically you may like to see, hear and



do.

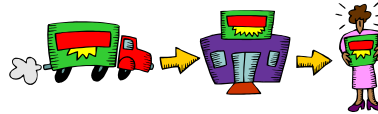


- **Spelling**

You may spell the same word differently each time you use it, often taking a phonetic approach (e.g. spelling ache as ake). Word retrieval can be a problem, and similar words may be confused (e.g. vertical and vertices).



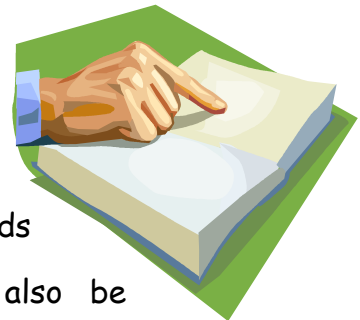
- **Understanding instructions**



Complex instructions can be confusing and words may not be retained accurately. You may need to turn the TV off when you are doing homework . Break large tasks into smaller chunks. Put deadline reminders on a calander. Put new vocabulary on a wall chart in your bedroom. Highlight key points when revising

- **Reading**

Reading can be slowed down because of the need to read material more than once. You may lose your place when reading, miss a line out, miss out words altogether or misread words. Sequencing can also be difficult. This can affect your ability to remember mathematical tables, alphabetical order, months of the year, days of the week, and left and right.



- **Writing and other motor skills**

You may have poor-quality or difficult-to-read handwriting. Copying information from book or board can be especially difficult, particularly if the words are in joined-up handwriting or small print. You may also have difficulty with returning to the correct place.



- **Concentration**

Dyslexia can lead to short concentration spans. You may tire easily when doing homework that involves a lot of reading or writing. You may be tired when you get home and this can add to the problem of motivating yourself.



- **Personal organisation**

Your organisational skills may be poor. A wall chart in their bedrooms to note key deadlines can be very useful.



- **Equipment**

You may benefit from having the following essential 'kit': a highlighter to highlight key points; post-it notes to mark pages; a small hole-puncher for handouts. Try to date everything for easier retrieval.



- **Be positive**

Ask yourself what makes learning a positive experience for you.



# Dyslexia- How can we ?



**Working Memory:**  
Check understanding, memory aids, repeat instructions.

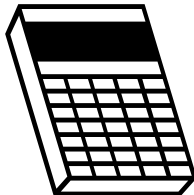
**Writing / Handwriting:**  
Limit copying, photocopy notes, extra-time, ICT.

**Reading:**  
Tape material, read to student, visual prompts, VAK approach.



**5 Areas of Difficulty**

**Spelling:**  
Display keywords, spellcheckers.



**Organisation:**  
Check diary, mind-maps, colour coding.





## References

Dyslexia Scotland (nd) What is dyslexia?

Available online:

<https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/sites/default/files/library/WhatIsDyslexia.pdf>

The Open University (2018) Understanding Dyslexia, Open Learn.

Available online: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/education/understanding-dyslexia/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>