

Getting your dyslexic child the support they need

by Sarah-Louise Jeffries



Sarah-Loise Jeffries – Providing Dyslexia Support

I am a caring, encouraging and creative Dyslexia tutor who holds full Qualified Teacher Status. I have taught a diverse range of children with a variety of needs. My considerable experience includes Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD, Dyscalculia ASD, behavioural issues and children with English as an additional language.

I also hold a qualification in assessing students with Dyslexia (Diploma in Teaching and Assessing Learners with Dyslexia/Specific Learning Difficulties).

For more about my experience, please visit my [website](#).

Contents:

- Dyslexia - the definition
- Identifying dyslexia
- Dyslexia assessment
- Support at school
- Getting private support
- What is an EHCP





Dyslexia - the definition

Dyslexia is defined by Rose (2009) as a 'learning difficulty stemming from weak phonological processing, which primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent reading and writing'.

It is difficulty in reading, spelling, writing and number work, but can also include difficulty with remembering, sequencing information, word finding, organisation and co-ordination.

Dyslexia is not only about difficulties in the acquisition of basic literacy skills, but also affects the way information is processed, stored and retrieved both from the short-term and long-term memory. There may also be difficulties in processing information at speed, phonological and word recognition difficulties, as well as organisation, co-ordination and sequencing.

Some people may also find it difficult to read a 'map', know their left from their right, follow directions or tell the time.

However, dyslexics tend to be great problem solvers, they are often creative and can see the bigger picture.

"Dyslexia is just a different way of dealing with language in the brain."



Some Facts About Dyslexia

1. Dyslexia is biological in origin and often runs in families.
2. Dyslexia can co-exist with other specific learning difficulties such as ADHD (a medical diagnosis is needed) and Dyspraxia.
3. Approximately 10% of the population will have dyslexia (that's 2–3 children in every classroom).
4. Fundamentally, dyslexics need a different way of learning.

Identifying Dyslexia

Signs of dyslexia in a child may include:

- Difficulty remembering nursery rhymes and saying a rhyming string
- Writing letters and numbers the wrong way around
- Difficulty remembering times tables, the alphabet etc.
- Finding reading and spelling difficult
- Not always understanding or remembering what they have read
- Difficulty in copying words off the board
- Short-term memory difficulties, like not being able to remember what instructions were given
- Telling left from right or remembering the days of the week or months of the year in order
- Poor handwritten communication to convey knowledge and understanding in examinations

Many of these are age-relevant, for more details on identifying dyslexia at different ages, please [visit my website](#).

Dyslexia Assessment

A diagnostic Dyslexia assessment is the only way to assess if someone is dyslexic. It's also a great tool for better understand their strengths and weaknesses as these can vary from person to person.

Sometimes a child may need more specialist help than the resources available to schools and other settings to provide SEN support. In these circumstances, you or your child's school would consider asking your local authority for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) needs assessment for your child.

Getting private support

If your child's school is not providing sufficient support or your child is still struggling despite it, you may consider engaging a specialist tutor.

A tutor will give your child individual attention, tailored to their specific needs. They will identify weaknesses and target those areas for improvement and set an appropriate pace for learning.



Your specialist tutor should:

- Have qualifications in Teaching and Assessing Learners with Dyslexia/Specific Learning Difficulties
- Be a professional member of a recognised organisation like PATOSS (The professional association of teachers for students with specific learning difficulties)
- Have an up to date full and enhanced CRB check
- Be prepared to liaise with your child's school on your behalf
- Be adept at sparking your child's interest

Before you agree...

Find out from your tutor

- How long sessions are and how they will be structured
- What areas of help are covered
- How progress is evaluated
- Costs, additional charges and contracts/cancellation fees



Support at School

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) should have support put in place by their school so they can derive maximum benefit from their education. This doesn't require an official diagnosis of a learning difficulty; however, a proper diagnostic assessment will ensure that support is targeted to their specific needs.



According to the Department of Education's guide "Special educational needs and disability guide for parents and carers", SEN support can take many forms. This could include:

- a special learning programme for your child
- extra help from a teacher or a learning support assistant
- making or changing materials and equipment
- working with your child in a small group
- helping your child to take part in the class activities
- making sure that your child has understood things by encouraging them to ask questions and to try something they find difficult.



Schools should publish a SEN Information Report on their website, and keep the report up to date. The report needs to include things like:

- the kinds of SEN support the school provides
- their approach to teaching children and young people with SEN
- what arrangements they have for consulting parents and involving them in their child's education (and also for engaging young people directly)



What is an EHCP?

Schools in England must provide support to SEN children as part of their standard offer (SEN support). They have national funding in order to do so, but if a child needs more support than they can provide within their budget, they may need an EHCP.

An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will collate your child's education, health and social care needs into a single, legal document.

This plan outlines the child's special educational needs and the detailed / quantified provision to meet those needs.

What are the benefits of an EHCP?

- It gives your child the individual support they need to meet their special educational needs (SEN), beyond the school's offering and provides further resources to give them the best-quality learning experience.
- The EHCP states the provision that a child requires and that must be given regardless of any local authority (LA) funding issues.

- An EHCP can allow for a specialist independent school if necessary, even if it is not in your catchment area
- It's a legally binding document that assures your child the best chance or a greater future.
- The EHCP is in place until your child finishes their school or college education, or turns 25.

How do I get an EHCP?

If your request for an assessment is denied, there is an appeal process that can be followed, so don't give up!

Common reasons for refusal are:

- A lack of diagnosis of a special educational need for the child
- No report from an educational psychologist
- The child is not deemed to be far enough behind their fellow students

"An official diagnosis from a professional will expedite the approval of an EHCP."

Apple and Android Apps



Dyslexia Gold improves reading fluency, speed and comprehension. It increases reading age by over 12 months. Their fun, effective & unique programs help children learn to read and write

<https://www.educationalappstore.com/app/dyslexia-gold>



Phonics Genius is a customizable flashcard-style app designed to help kids identify letter sounds and their relationship to words and has just about every conceivable phonetic combination, presented in a high quality and completely enjoyable way

<https://www.educationalappstore.com/app/phonics-genius>



Free Dyslexia Screener

For a free, no-commitment assessment and advice, complete my [Child Screener](#), which asks questions like:

- Does your child seem intelligent in some ways but unexpectedly struggles in other areas?
- Does your child find it difficult to learn sequences, for example, days of the week or the alphabet?
- When writing, does your child spell the same word several different ways?

I will then send you results via email with your next options and advice.

<https://dyslexiasupportconsultancy.com/child-screener/>

More about Sarah-Louise Jeffries

There is a common assumption that many people make when it comes to Dyslexia. Some people believe that this learning difficulty is something which affects everyone in the same way, but this is simply not the case. This is why dyslexia assessments are important. No matter what age, gender or race you are, a dyslexic assessment can be conducted for anyone.

I use precise assessments to identify weaknesses and target those areas for improvement. This will help the individual, their parents and teachers understand their specific needs. It also means that the people around the dyslexic person will know how best to offer appropriate support and interventions when and if required.

How I work

Visit my website to find out [how I work](#)

<https://dyslexiasupportconsultancy.com/assessments/diagnostic-dyslexia-assessments/>

Qualifications and Accreditations

- BSc (Honours) Psychology (Bangor University)
- PGCE and Masters in Education (Durham University)
- Diploma in Teaching and Assessing Learners with Dyslexia/Specific Learning Difficulties
- APC – Assessment Practising Certificate (recognises the professional achievement, training and skills of specialist teachers)
- Member of PATOSS (The professional association of teachers for students with specific learning difficulties)
- Full and enhanced CRB check
- Member of Hampshire Dyslexia Association

Get in touch with Sarah



enquiries@dscsupport.co.uk



07818063634



<http://www.dyslexiasupportconsultancy.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/DyslexiaSupportConsultancy/>