

Dysgraphia

Condition:

Dysgraphia is a specific learning condition that is characterised by difficulties in writing and written expression, especially in comparison to others of a similar age. It affects handwriting through, for example, difficulties with being able to hold and use a pen or pencil. It can also affect the coherence of written words.

Dysgraphia can also overlap with other conditions such as speech impairments, attention deficit disorder (ADD) or developmental coordination disorder (Dyspraxia).

Problem Areas:

- Physical struggles with the fine motor skills needed for writing.
- These physical struggles can sometimes be painful.
- Can also struggle with basic grammar and spelling skills.
- Can jumble upper and lower case letters, different size letters, unfinished letters.
- May confuse certain letters e.g. p, q, b and d.
- Sometimes can struggle to form the mental order of words ready to write them, or may write a different, wrong, word than the one they are thinking of.
- This can lead to stress and frustration, sometimes leading to a refusal to try.

Support strategies for your Group:

- Allow extra time for activities that involve writing something down.
- Think of alternative ways for young people to express what they would otherwise write, e.g. through speaking or art.
- Use games to help make learning fun.
- Use images or symbols, as well as words, to communicate where possible.
- Use one-to-one support where possible.

Further information:

The Dyslexia Association <https://www.dyslexia.uk.net>

Thanks to Dyslexia Association for much of the material used in writing this article.

'Invited to Belong' has been developed in partnership between Urban Saints and Youthscape.



Youthscape