

Talking to your child's school if you think your child is dyslexic



If you think that your child may be dyslexic, it's important to talk to the school about your concerns as early as possible. There may be a number of reasons you think your child may be dyslexic such as:



- you or another member of your family is dyslexic and you recognise the signs
- your child has told you they are struggling with reading/writing/spelling or you have noticed this
- your child is easily upset when asked to read/write/spell in school or at home, or they then try to avoid them
- your child finds it difficult to be organised or remember things.

It could be that the school has noticed your child's difficulties and is putting support in place or, if your child is in early primary school, is waiting to see how your child learning progresses as they get older. Either way, it is worth raising your concerns with their class teacher (primary school) or the pupil support team (secondary school).

Good to know

- Some children may need extra help to get the most from their education in order to flourish. Pupils who need extra or different help than other pupils their age, for any reason, are said to have 'additional support needs'.
- Additional support for learning is not just a good idea, it is the law. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, gives children who need extra help at school or nursery the right to get the support they need.
- Your child does not need a formal diagnosis of dyslexia to have the right to get the support they need at school.
- Both you and the school want the same thing - the best possible learning opportunities for your child. Schools must consider how to meet the needs of all the children in their care, but your child has the right to have their individual needs met.
- There is lots of useful technology to help your child. See our information sheet: 'Talking to your child's school about technology to support their learning'.

Tips for talking to your child's school

We have worked with Dyslexia Scotland to pull together information and tips to help you when you are talking to your child's school.

- 1 Arrange a meeting to speak to the class teacher or pupil support teacher. Parent evenings are often rushed and trying to catch a teacher during the school day can be difficult, so ask if you can have a separate meeting or telephone call.
- 2 You might want to write down your main questions before the meeting so you don't forget anything.
- 3 Share the reasons you think your child might be dyslexic. You know your child best and may have picked up on issues the school has not noticed or your child is masking.
- 4 If you have gathered any information about dyslexia, share this with the school and explain how you think it relates to your child. Your child's teacher may have experience of working with dyslexic children but may not have identified your child's specific difficulties.
- 5 If you have examples from school or homework of where your child is struggling, share these with the school (e.g., spelling that's unpredictable and inconsistent, putting letters and figures the wrong way round or confusing the order of letters in words).
- 6 If you have developed strategies to help your child at home, share these with the school and discuss how these might be adapted to use in school.
- 7 Explain to the school how your child's difficulties are affecting them, particularly at home. Being dyslexic and struggling in school can be confusing and stressful for children and can affect how they feel about themselves and learning. It may also affect their behaviour and attendance.
- 8 Ask for a note of the outcomes of the meeting or jot them down yourself. If your child has a learning plan, ask if it can be updated with the agreed new or different support.

Your school may suggest your child is assessed for dyslexia. But if not, you have the right to ask for your child's needs to be assessed.

If your child is in early primary school, the school may want to wait to carry out a formal dyslexia assessment. This is because children learn in different ways and your child's learning may change as they mature. Even if your child does not have a formal identification of dyslexia, they should still receive the support they need.

The school should work with you and your child to plan how to give your child the support they need to do the best they can. Sometimes they will suggest a particular type of learning plan, or it may be a more informal arrangement.

Find out more in our 'Identifying and assessing your child's needs' factsheet

<https://enquire.org.uk/publications/identifying-assessing/>

Find out more in our 'Planning your child's support' factsheet

<https://enquire.org.uk/publications/planning/>

More information:

Visit Dyslexia Scotland website for helpful advice, information and support about dyslexia:
<https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/> Helpline: 0344 800 84 84

For advice and information about additional support for learning contact Enquire on 0345 123 2303 or visit our website: www.enquire.org.uk

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This infographic was written in collaboration with:


Dyslexia Scotland