

LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (DYSLEXIA)

An information sheet for parents/carers

This information sheet gives information about the support available in primary and secondary schools for children and young people with specific learning difficulties. It also suggests who you can talk to if you are worried about your child.

What does specific learning difficulties or dyslexia mean?

Children and young people with specific learning difficulties have problems that affect their ability to learn reading, spelling, writing and sometimes numeracy. Although they usually have difficulties in more than one of these areas, with support they can make progress. All children are unique and their difficulties can be mild to severe, just as the speed and type of progress they make can vary. For example, some children find it hard to learn literacy skills while others may have trouble with concentration, poor memory or poor organisation.

It is important to remember they will also have strengths, skills and abilities which need to be encouraged.

What if my child needs extra help?

Usually your child's school will contact you if they feel your child needs extra help. If you feel your child is having difficulties in school, you can speak to their class teacher or the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

What can help my child to learn?

One to one teaching is not always the best way to support children with SpLD – there are lots of different ways to help them. The extra help the school may give your child will depend on what they think will be most suitable for the child's needs.

Your child may:

- Have one to one support sessions with the school's SENCO or with a Learning Support Assistant.
- Work in a small group with other pupils
- Be given in-class support to help them keep up with the work being done in the class.
- Have extra help from the SpLD team who specialise in supporting children who have specific learning difficulties, a team of qualified teacher's works with

Lewisham Parent Partnership Service
The Kabin, Forster Park School, Boundfield Road, SE6 1PQ
Tel: 020 8695 5955 Email: lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk
Website: www.lewishamparentpartnership.org.uk

schools by assessing children, supporting school staff and advising how to help the child.

- Be offered a combination of the above types of support.

What can I do to help?

Working with the school is the best way to help your child learn and make progress.

These are some of the ways you can help:

- Talk to your child. Listen to them and respect their views.
- Ask when and how you can speak to the class teacher or SENCO about any concerns. You may need to make an appointment to see them. Give your views.
- It can help to involve your child in agreeing the learning targets in the Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Put time and energy into activities your child enjoys and is good at. This will help build their self-esteem.
- There are some useful guidelines about teaching reading, writing, spelling and numeracy skills. You can find out more about this by contacting one of the organisations listed at the end of this sheet.

Is my child making progress?

Parents and teachers say it is useful to have a clear understanding of a child's strengths and difficulties from the start. Dyslexic children often have strengths such as Art, Sport or Design Technology. It is important that everyone knows what the child's strengths and difficulties are and can chart the child's progress. Also Educational Psychologists and teachers both at school are able to carry out tests that show a child's abilities.

If you think your child is not making progress in literacy, for example, it is important to talk to the class teacher or SENCO about your concerns.

Who else can I talk to?

If you want to find out more about how to help and support children with SpLD, you can contact the following:

Lewisham Specific Learning Difficulties Team
Kaleidoscope
Lewisham Centre for Children
& Young People
32 Rushey Green
Catford
SE6 4JF
Tel: 020 7138 1100

Dyslexia Action
Park House
Wick Road
Egham
Surrey
TW20 0HH
Tel: 01784 222 300

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British Dyslexia Association
98 London Road, Reading
Berkshire
RG1 5AU
www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk
Tel: 0118 9668271/2

Dyslexia Association of
Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich
and Lewisham
Helpline: 07000 50 50 55

Further Contacts

Parent Partnership Service: Independent information, advice and support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. Contact details below

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