

# LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

## DYSLEXIA

### What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a learning disability which **MAY** cause difficulties with some of the following:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spelling
- Maths
- Memory
- Organisational skills

It is also called “**Specific Learning Difficulty**”.

### People with Dyslexia may be very good at:

- ✓ Talking about what they know
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Computer skills
- ✓ Artistic or creative things
- ✓ Practical skills

### Is my child Dyslexic?

Children develop at different rates; even if your child has one or more of these signs it does NOT automatically mean they have Dyslexia.

### Early Years

- Slow to talk
- Difficulty pronouncing some words
- Problems working out which words rhyme or learning nursery rhymes
- Difficulty learning the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, colours, shapes
- Finds it hard to follow routines or directions in action songs, games or when getting dressed
- Can't tell or re-tell a story in the right order
- Slow to use a pencil properly
- Problems with motor skills – not crawling, difficulty catching or kicking a ball

### Primary School

- Problems with reading and spelling
- Difficulty writing numbers and letter the right way round (after the age of 7)
- Can't remember maths tables, the order of the days of the week, address and phone number, tell the time
- Problems tying shoe laces or tie
- Difficulty knowing left from right
- Untidy handwriting
- Poor confidence and low self esteem

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

- Behaviour problems due to frustration

### **Secondary School**

- Problems still with spelling, reading or maths
- Writing is slow and contains strange spellings
- Has a poor sense of direction
- Difficulty following a timetable
- Problems planning written work
- Memory problems
- Poor confidence and low self-esteem
- Continuing behaviour problems due to frustration

### **All schools should:**

- Talk about concerns with you
- Assess your child
- Adapt what is being taught and how it is being taught to suit all learning styles
- Introduce your child to strategies to help with spelling, reading, writing, and maths
- Involve you in your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Review your child's needs every six months or each term
- If necessary, seek advice from an Educational Psychologist or from a specialist teacher from the Specific Learning Difficulty team
- Make sure all staff are aware of your child's needs and they receive advice on how to meet them
- Acknowledge and praise your child's strengths
- Ensure that homework matches your child's ability

### **How can I help my child?**

- Do everything you can to support your child and build up his/her confidence
- Remember you are an expert about your child
- Discuss concerns as soon as they arise with school staff
- Share, discuss and enjoy books with your child regularly – use taped books as well as printed versions
- Discuss strategies used at school and encourage your child to use them at home
- Encourage your child to develop something he/she is interested in, or using his/her strengths
- Talk openly with your child about his/her dyslexia and encourage his/her feelings with you
- Celebrate every improvement your child makes with him/her
- Try to meet other parents whose children have dyslexia to swap tips and for support
- Encourage your child to use wall charts, planners, make lists, use colour coding or any memory aid that helps with organisational skills

## 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

### **National Dyslexia Association**

**Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich  
and Lewisham**  
Helpline: 07000 50 50 50

### **British Dyslexia Association**

Unit 8 Bracknell Beeches  
Old Bracknell Lane  
RG13 7BW  
Admin Tel: 0845 251 9003  
Helpline: 0845 251 9002  
Email: [helpline@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:helpline@bdadyslexia.org.uk)  
Website: [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

## 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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