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An online information, sharing and community resource for individuals with disabilities, parents, carers and professionals

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Dyslexia in the classroom

Some tips to help you support children with dyslexia in the classroom

Support your student to record and absorb key information

Support your student with note taking – Give them a printout of the key information you are conveying and left blanks for them to complete. This will enable them to have access to the key information and focus on absorbing the key information. Simply writing information on a board for your student to copy may not translate, causing anxiety and misinterpretation.

Be patient - Give time

Give your student plenty of time to complete tasks. If you expect a task to take an hour, give them three. If you are setting homework, do not give it one day and ask for it to be in the next. Set the homework on a Friday and give your student the weekend to complete it. Communicating with your student's parents/ carers is essential. Write a note for their parents/ carers to explain what the homework is.

Praise and reward

As your student finds spelling and ordering difficult, take this into consideration when marking work. It may be that they have given considerable time and effort to a piece of work, but it contains some spelling errors however they have completed the task. Praise your student for good work and give marks for effort.

Dyslexic learners may be less skilled than their peers at spelling and grammar. However, if their thought process and creativity shine through the errors and it's clear they've made an effort, this should be praised. Avoid using red pen to correct errors and always start with a positive response to their work as they will be aware of their difficulties, experience sensitivities which could escalate into anxiety. You can continue to support them with strategies to support ordering and spellings.

Having a range of stamps or stickers can allow you to offer praise in a fun, accessible way and vary your response as well as boosting your student's self-esteem.

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