

THE

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SEN CONSULTANTS HERE TO HELP YOU!

OF SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Dyspraxia



"Specific learning difficulties," also known as "specific learning disabilities," refer to a group of neurological conditions that affect a person's ability to gain and use certain academic skills. These difficulties are specific in that they primarily impact particular areas of learning, such as reading, writing, math, or language, while leaving other areas of intellectual functioning intact. These conditions are often diagnosed in childhood but can persist into adulthood.

DYSPRAXIA

We are going to explore one of these difficulties:

Dyspraxia, also known as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), is a neurological condition that affects a person's ability to plan and coordinate physical movements. Individuals with dyspraxia may have difficulty with tasks like tying shoelaces, using utensils, or participating in sports. It can also impact their ability to plan and organise tasks, leading to challenges in daily activities and academics.



Dyspraxia is a complex condition. Symptoms may be experienced in combination, vary in severity from person to person and may present differently across different age groups. Symptoms include:

- **Clumsiness-** exhibit poor coordination and motor skills, leading to frequent clumsiness and difficulty with tasks requiring precise movements.
- **Fine Motor Skill Challenges-** struggle with activities such as writing, drawing, buttoning clothes, or using utensils.
- **Speech and Language Difficulties-** can manifest as delayed speech development, articulation problems, and difficulty expressing thoughts and ideas verbally.
- **Hand-Eye Coordination Issues-** difficulty with activities such as catching or throwing objects, playing sports, or engaging in tasks like drawing and cutting.
- **Organisation and Planning Problems-** difficulties with organising tasks and thoughts, which can impact academic performance and daily activities.
- **Sensory Sensitivities-** sensory sensitivities, including hypersensitivity to certain textures, tastes, sounds, or smells.

I am worried my child will not achieve at school.

It's important to note that dyspraxia does not affect intelligence, and individuals with dyspraxia may excel in other areas, such as creativity, problem-solving, or academic subjects.

What can help my child?

Early intervention and targeted therapies can help individuals with dyspraxia improve their motor skills and develop effective strategies to adapt to their unique challenges. Treatment approaches may include occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and psychological support as needed.

How do I get a diagnosis for my child?

Be proactive, persistent and seek the guidance of healthcare professionals who specialise in developmental and learning disorders like dyspraxia. Early diagnosis and intervention can make a significant difference in your child's progress and overall well-being. Diagnosing dyspraxia typically involves assessments by healthcare professionals, such as occupational therapists, speech therapists, and developmental pediatricians.

Speak to your doctor or child's pediatrician for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Try to keep records of your child's developmental history, academic performance, and any relevant medical information. This can assist healthcare professionals in making an accurate diagnosis.

For further advice and support contact us today.