

THE

*Dys*

*Inspire321*

SEN CONSULTANTS HERE TO HELP YOU!



## OF SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

*Dyslexia Dyspraxia Dyscalculia Dysgraphia*

"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.

We are going to explore four of those difficulties:

**Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia.**

This free PDF will give you a description of each of the 'dys-' specific learning difficulties with a list of 6 key symptoms. Each symptoms can vary from person to person and present themselves in varying degrees of severity.

We also offer our parent advice to help your child thrive with their specific learning difficulty.

**For further advice and support visit our website  
[www.inspire321.com](http://www.inspire321.com)**

## DYSLEXIA

Dyslexia is a learning difference that effects the way people process and understand information. It can make reading, spelling and writing more challenging. People with dyslexia may have difficulty recognising letters and their sounds.

**The specific symptoms of dyslexia can vary from individual to individual, and they often manifest differently at different ages. Symptoms include:**

- 1. Difficulty with Reading**- often struggle with reading, including slow and drawn out reading, frequent reading errors, and difficulty decoding words.
- 2. Poor Spelling and Writing**- typically have trouble spelling words correctly and may exhibit inconsistent handwriting. They may also struggle with grammar and punctuation.
- 3. Challenges with Phonological Awareness**- difficulty recognising and manipulating the sounds within words, including rhyming, blending, and segmenting sounds.
- 4. Difficulty with Word Retrieval**- difficulty recalling words or names quickly, often experiencing "tip-of-the-tongue" moments.
- 5. Poor Reading Comprehension**- difficulty understanding and remembering what they read and may struggle to connect ideas and make inferences from text.
- 6. Reversing Letters and Numbers**- frequently reversing letters (e.g., "b" and "d") or numbers (e.g., "12" and "21").

Early intervention and support are crucial to help individuals with dyslexia develop effective reading and language skills.



# DYSPRAXIA

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.



**Symptoms may be experienced in combination, vary in severity from person to person and may present differently across different age groups:**

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

Dyspraxia varies in its severity, and with proper support and therapy, individuals can improve their motor skills and develop effective strategies to cope with daily challenges.



# DYSGRAPHIA

Dysgraphia is a neurological condition that affects a person's ability to write coherently and legibly. It is considered a learning disability that primarily impacts the physical act of writing, although it can also affect other fine motor skills related to the manipulation of a pen or pencil. Dysgraphia can make it challenging for individuals to produce written work that is neat, organised, and easy to read, even if they have normal cognitive and verbal skills.

**Symptoms vary from person to person but often include:**

1. **Illegible handwriting**- extremely messy, inconsistent, or poorly formed handwriting. Writing may be difficult to read or decipher.
2. **Difficulty with letter formation**- struggle with forming letters correctly, leading to irregular or distorted shapes.
3. **Inconsistent spacing and sizing**- difficulties maintaining consistent spacing between words and letters, resulting in irregularly spaced text. Letter sizes may also vary significantly.
4. **Poor spelling and grammar**- can affect the ability to spell words correctly and use proper grammar, as the focus is often on the physical act of writing rather than the content.
5. **Pain or discomfort while writing**- may experience physical discomfort, fatigue, or cramping when they write for extended periods.
6. **Slow writing speed**- often write more slowly than their peers.

Dysgraphia can occur alongside other learning disabilities such as dyslexia. Targeted strategies and accommodations such as, assistive technologies, occupational therapy and/or specialised writing tools can help individuals overcome their writing difficulties.

# DYSCALCULIA

Dyscalculia is a learning disorder that specifically affects a person's ability to understand and work with numbers and mathematical concepts. Individuals with dyscalculia may struggle with tasks like counting, recognising numbers, performing basic arithmetic operations, and grasping mathematical concepts like time and measurement. This condition can make math-related activities challenging.



**Some of the most common challenges experienced by individuals with dyscalculia include:**

- 1. Difficulty with Basic Number Concepts**- struggles with understanding numbers, recognising number symbols, and counting accurately.
- 2. Challenges in Arithmetic Operations**- difficulty performing basic math operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- 3. Poor Number Fact Retrieval**- difficulty recalling basic math facts quickly, such as multiplication tables or addition/subtraction facts.
- 4. Difficulty with Mathematical Symbols and Terminology**- struggles with understanding and using mathematical symbols, formulas, and language.
- 5. Problems with Mathematical Reasoning**- difficulty solving word problems and understanding mathematical concepts in context.
- 6. Anxiety and Frustration with Math**- can impact their confidence and motivation to engage with math-related tasks.

Individuals with dyscalculia can excel in other areas unrelated to mathematics.



## I am worried my child will not achieve at school.

It is important to remember that having a SpLD does not mean a child or young person is less intelligent. With proper support and strategies, individuals with SpLDs can still excel in life.

## What can help my child?

Early identification and appropriate support and intervention are crucial to help individuals with specific learning difficulties succeed academically and develop strategies to compensate for their challenges. Educational professionals, including special education teachers and specialists, can provide tailored support to address the specific needs of individuals with these learning difficulties.

## How do I get a diagnosis for my child?

A diagnosis of a SpLD typically involves a comprehensive assessment by a qualified educational psychologist or other healthcare professionals who specialise in learning disorders. Early identification and targeted interventions, such as personalised tutoring and accommodations in educational settings, can help individuals with specific learning difficulties develop strategies to overcome their challenges.

