

THE

Dys

Inspire321

SEN CONSULTANTS HERE TO HELP YOU!

OF SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

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 one of those difficulties:

## 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.

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

It's important to note that dysgraphia is not related to intelligence; individuals with dysgraphia can have normal or above-average cognitive abilities. Dysgraphia can occur alongside other learning disabilities such as dyslexia (difficulty with reading) or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

### What can help my child?

Early intervention, targeted strategies and accommodations such as, assistive technologies, occupational therapy, specialised writing tools and individualised learning plans can help individuals overcome their writing difficulties, support academic progress and their future success.

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

Be proactive, persistent and seek the guidance of healthcare professionals who specialise in specific learning difficulties like dysgraphia. Early diagnosis and intervention can make a significant difference in your child's progress and overall well-being. Diagnosing dysgraphia involves a comprehensive assessment by a qualified specialist or educational psychologist. 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.**



[www.inspire321.com](http://www.inspire321.com)



[info@inspire321.com](mailto:info@inspire321.com)



0800 772 3800



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