



Supporting With Dyslexia Concerns at Lockyer's Middle School

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions that parents ask our SENCO about dyslexia:

How can I get my child tested?

If you are concerned that your child may be dyslexic, you should discuss this with your child's class teacher, in the first instance. You could also arrange a meeting with the SENCO, Mrs Adams, to discuss your concerns.

What is the difference between screening and assessing for dyslexia?

If there are concerns regarding dyslexia we offer an online GL dyslexic screening. This is a short test that may indicate whether a child is showing dyslexic tendencies, however it must be remembered that it is not a diagnosis and is not as accurate as a full assessment. We also offer a dyslexic portfolio. This is a one-to-one diagnostic assessment used to identify a child's strengths and weaknesses in areas such as literacy, processing and memory skills.

A full dyslexia assessment can only be carried out by a psychologist specialising in SpLD or a qualified specialist assessor. A dyslexia assessment takes several hours and uses many different tests to build up a complete picture of the child's strengths and difficulties. Following this assessment you would receive a report which would state whether or not your child has dyslexia. This is something that we can request as a school through our twice yearly meeting with the Educational Psychologist and Specialist Teacher.

Unfortunately, a full diagnostic assessment is not always agreed. However, it is possible to have your child privately assessed, although you will have to pay for this.

Can I get the GP to assess my child?

The NHS does not fund dyslexia assessments.

What should I do if I do not understand the assessment report?

It is important to understand the assessment report but they can be confusing. If there are things that you are unsure of, contact the author of the report and ask them to explain the report to you.

Should I find a dyslexia tutor for my child?

A specialist tutor can be helpful to give your child an extra 'boost' or close some gaps in learning. A tutor can help children learn more about their learning styles and strategies they can use. This extra support can be for a short period of time or for longer, should your child need it. However, not all dyslexic children will need support from a tutor.

What qualifications should a teacher/tutor have that are useful when supporting a child with dyslexia?

Specialist dyslexic teachers/tutors have specialist dyslexic teacher or specialist practitioner status known as ATS/APS. They will also generally have registration with the British Dyslexia Association or PATOSS.

How can I help my child with self-esteem?

It is important to develop children's self-esteem as many children who find learning difficult can get frustrated, which may lead to low self-esteem. Ensure that your child has a full understanding of what dyslexia is and the strengths it gives them as well as their difficulties.

How can I help my child at home?

There are many ways in which you can help your child at home:

- Provide opportunities for them to partake in activities they have strengths in to develop their self-esteem.
- Encourage them to practise their reading in everyday situations such as reading signs, instructions for cooking, reading magazines and packaging.
- Children with dyslexia can have limited vocabulary so opportunities to develop their vocabulary are extremely useful through educational visits, podcasts, audiobooks and informative TV programmes.
- Encourage your child to understand that although they have to work harder, they can achieve their dream!

Can assistive technology help my child?

There is a wide range of technology that may be useful to your child and it is about working with your child and the school to see what is most beneficial. The technology can include:

- speech to text software
- text to speech software
 - reader pens
 - talking tins
- learning to touch type and using a word processor
- consider changing the background colour on electronic devices as bright white can be too dazzling

What help can my child receive in tests and exams?

In terms of access arrangements, each dyslexic child will need different arrangements - there is no 'one size fits all' as each dyslexic child will have different requirements. The school will investigate the need and eligibility for access arrangements in examinations such as SATS, based on evidence.

Accommodations can include:

- extra time (25% is usual)
- reader
- a scribe
- exam papers to be on a coloured paper
- prompter
- supervised rest breaks

Is it possible for someone who is dyslexic to learn a foreign language?

Dyslexic children should be given an opportunity to learn a foreign language. At Lockyer's Middle School pupils attend French lessons. French lessons are taught in a multi-sensory way involving role-play, games, singing and other group activities, which supports learning. Some children with dyslexia may find learning a foreign language difficult and it may take them longer to acquire the language.