

Helping Your Dyslexic Child Learn to Read

Remember

- Students with dyslexic tendencies may learn a concept fast but they will forget just as fast; they need lots of revision and repetition.
- Give lots of praise.
- Dyslexics have good and bad days. Dyslexics can get very tired. They have to concentrate harder, so they get tired quicker.
- Make learning fun, we learn best when we are enjoying ourselves.
- Lots of short activities are needed to keep focussed.
- Negotiate a time to suit you both (not when favourite TV programmes are on)

Supporting your child when reading:

- Set aside a regular time – find somewhere quiet and comfortable.
- Negotiate choice of book/reading material – even if it has been read before it is valuable reading experience.
- Discuss the book cover, title and the information on the back cover – what is the book going to be about.
- Look through the book for a few minutes discussing illustrations and reading any names that may be hard to read later on.
- Tracking with a finger or line guide will help if child often loses place.
- Let the child read to you. If they get stuck you can help by:
 - Talking about the sounds or syllables in the word
 - Find a word within a word (e.g. big – bigger)
 - Point to a picture clue
 - Read out the word then re-read the sentence
 - Point to a similar word they have already read (e.g. bake – shake)
- Try paired reading if child is tired – you do a line/paragraph and I'll do a line/paragraph. Talk about book at the end and praise child.

In reading there are a number of words that occur frequently in texts but are not regular when your child tries to decode them e.g. said. These words will need extra practice.

- Make these words into flash cards and use them in any board game e.g. snakes and ladders, when they land they have to read to keep their place.
- Play snap with two sets of flash cards
- Beat the clock – aim to improve their time each day

Never worry about reading to your child – sharing a book is a valuable experience at any age.

For dyslexia-friendly books, suggestions are available from:

www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

www.waterstones.com

Other useful sites with advice for parents include:

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk