

## What you can do at home

Helping your child can be challenging, especially if you're not confident yourself. However, be patient, you can always help by strengthening your child's self-esteem. Here are some things to try:

- Focus on effort and not outcome, praise your child for trying hard,
- Read to them every day,
- Let them read to you every day,
- Tap into your child's interests,
- Use audiobooks (from libraries or online),
- Look for apps or other tech to help (word processors, spell-check and voice recognition software),
- Make your home reader-friendly—keep reading materials in all rooms, take a book on holiday/trips with you. Read books as a family,
- Boost confidence—use hobbies and afterschool activities,
- Don't panic if the first strategies you try aren't effective,
- Use a variety of reading materials (comics, picture books, magazines etc.)

## What we do at Glebe

We ensure that all teaching and classrooms are dyslexia friendly by:

- Providing teaching that meets each child's needs; good teaching enables children with dyslexia to succeed,
- Adopting a multi-sensory approach to teaching,
- Giving children chance to complete work at their own pace or at a later date,
- Ensuring interactive whiteboards have a low contrast background,
- Giving all children access to word banks and dictionaries,
- Giving support with taking notes or giving children the necessary skills to do so,
- Giving corrective feedback to develop word recognition skills,
- Structured practice,
- Supporting longer writing tasks with a scaffolding framework,
- Providing phonics booster sessions,
- Providing small group interventions,
- Providing coloured overlays for some children with dyslexic tendencies,



**Glebe** Junior School

*Developing successful lives*

# A

# Dyslexia

# Friendly School

## What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability. It refers to a cluster of symptoms, which results in people having difficulties with specific language skills, particularly reading. Students with dyslexia usually experience difficulties with other language skills such as spelling, writing, and pronouncing words.

Dyslexia has a different impact on each person. It depends on the severity of the condition and the effectiveness of instruction or intervention. The effects of dyslexia reach well beyond the classroom.

## What causes Dyslexia?

The exact causes of dyslexia are still not completely clear, but studies show differences in the way the brain of a person with dyslexia develops and functions. Dyslexia is not due to either lack of intelligence or desire to learn.

Dyslexia can run in families; parents with dyslexia are more likely to have children with dyslexia.

## What are the signs of Dyslexia?

It is a myth that individuals with dyslexia “read backwards” or simply can’t spell. Problems experienced by people with dyslexia include the following:

- Learning to speak
- Learning letters and their sounds
- Read and write very slowly
- Confuse the order of letters in words
- Poor or inconsistent spelling
- Memorizing number facts
- Correctly doing math operations
- Persisting with and comprehending longer reading assignments
- Find it hard to carry out a sequence of directions
- Struggle with planning and organisation.
- Understand information when told verbally, but have difficulty with information that’s written down

However, not all students who have difficulties with spelling or other skills listed have dyslexia. Younger children may show many of these signs but will then grow out of them. For this reason it is not possible to diagnose until children are older. Formal testing is the only way to confirm a diagnosis of suspected dyslexia.

## How is it diagnosed?

Testing can only be conducted by specialists. These usually consist of assessing language skills (receptive, expressive, phonological, and an ability to name letters and names fluently and rapidly).

Online screening processes do exist but they do not provide enough information for a diagnostic assessment.

However, at Glebe, we treat children according to their need, as well as their diagnosis.

## How is dyslexia treated?

Dyslexia cannot be cured and is a lifelong condition. However, it can be managed. With proper help, people with dyslexia can learn to read and write to a good level.

Clear phonics teaching, as at Glebe, is recommended to support young children with dyslexia.

Some of the strategies that we implement at Glebe, as well as how you can help your child at home, are listed on the back.