

## I'm Dyslexic

I'm smart and creative, but my reading and spelling aren't great – this is not due to lack of effort but a neurological difference.

### 10 ways for teachers to help in class

#### 1. Please don't ask me to read or write in front of the whole class.

I am good at thinking and expressing my ideas when talking, but there is a big difference in what I can write down. If I write on the board in front of my friends it might be humiliating. Although I can read, I will misread some words and this can be embarrassing in front of a whole class. If it is unavoidable to read to an audience, such as an assembly, please give me plenty of notice so I can practise.

#### 2. When I have something long to read I may need to hear it instead.

Provide an audio book: I will need headphones in class.

On a computer: Install 'Natural Reader' (free). It will read aloud what is on the screen.

On an iPad: Turn on speech. Go to - settings - accessibility - speech - read selection - highlight content.

On a worksheet: Use the App 'Claro Reader Plus'. Take a photo of the worksheet and it will read it aloud.

#### 3. Help me to write.

Prep – Year 2: 'Clicker Sentences' App, or let me dictate to you while you write down some of my ideas.

All ages: Voice recognition is built in. Press the microphone icon next to the emoticon icon on the Mac/iPad.

Secondary: Voice recognition software 'Dragon Naturally Speaking' not the free App, the full software!

#### 4. Spelling doesn't equal intelligence!

Please mark my ideas, not my spelling. When correcting my written work, please don't mark all of my spelling errors. If I have misspelt a few key or common words, please correct those 1 or 2 words, and neatly write the correct spelling for me to see. Investigate the intelligent spellchecker 'Ginger Software'.

#### 5. Help me remember.

Help me to use my diary, consider letting me take a video of you explaining instructions or investigate a 'Livescribe Pen' to help me take notes. 'Notability' and 'Explain Everything' are powerful Apps.

#### 6. Help me be as organised as I can be.

Teach me to use folders or Google docs, and mind maps. Colour code equipment and the timetable with me.

#### 7. Let me take a photo of the board.

Copying from the board can be too slow and inaccurate. Please let me take a photo and help me to file it in the right folder or print it and paste it into my notes. You could also give me a copy of your notes.

#### 8. I will probably need extra time.

I am much slower at reading and writing than my peers. I will need (and am legally entitled to) extra time to complete work and for tests or exams.

#### 9. Thanks, but special fonts don't help much.

Dyslexia is not primarily a visual issue. For all students, just make sure notes are clear and big enough (12-point). Use bold to highlight and please make an effort to write clearly on the board.

#### 10. Consider a time limit for homework.

Homework that involves reading and writing will take me much longer than other students. Consider setting a time limit, so I can do, what I can up to the required time limit.