



# Dyslexia



Dyslexia is neurological and/or biochemical language processing disorder with symptoms which may range from minor to severely debilitating. It is a difficulty in reading and writing in spite of normal development of intelligence, cognitive and sensory abilities.

## Causes

- Genetically inherited differences in brain structure and functioning, particularly reduced activity in the left inferior parietal cortex.
- Although genetic in basis it can be exacerbated by environmental factors such as the phonological regularity of the native language (English is particularly problematic) and by the approach taken in early reading teaching

## Consequences

- Particular difficulty in learning the relationship between letters and sounds
- Poor ability to hold information in short term memory
- Poor spelling
- Low self-esteem as a result of negative labelling
- Avoidance of reading out loud
- May be associated with ADHD
- May be associated with strength in spatial and visual awareness, lateral thinking, oral skills and

## Strategies

- Remedial strategies based on phonological awareness training
- Make use of the student's strength in lateral thinking and oral expression
- Greater use of learning through hands-on experience, demonstrations, experimentation, observation and visual aids
- Use computer- based assistive technology
- Use reader/writers for assessments

