

**USEFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

The aim of this leaflet is not to provide a definitive list but to give some useful information and suggestions of what you as a parent can do if you suspect your child is dyslexic. If you need further help, the CDA has a local Dyslexia Helpline, which is run by volunteers on a rota system, to find out the number to phone each week call the answer phone:

**Helpline ☎ 01872 27 48 27.**

**CDA workshops for parents** to help them better understand and support their dyslexic children. Delivered throughout Cornwall.

Sally Collard ☎ 01726 69 336 or contact the Helpline.

**CDA Website:** [www.cornwalldyslexia.org.uk](http://www.cornwalldyslexia.org.uk) all text on the website can be read out and font size and background colour can be changed to suit your particular requirements.

**Join the Cornwall Dyslexia Association.** This costs £10 for individuals or families, £6 concessionary (student/unwaged/benefit claimant) and £25 for schools or colleges. You will receive a regular newsletter keeping you in touch with local events, plus the BDA Contact magazine. Send a cheque payable to Cornwall Dyslexia Association to: Cornwall Dyslexia Association, 19A Kenwyn Street, Truro, TR1 3BU. ☎ 01872 222911

**Check Hearing and Eyesight.** If a child is experiencing any difficulties at school, it is always a good idea to make sure that there are no problems with eyesight or hearing so get these checked if this has not been done recently. In a small percentage of dyslexics it may be useful to have a Dunlop test. This is a simple test to see if your child has developed a reference eye for near vision, although a child needs to be at least 7 or 8 before the test is feasible. Talk to your doctor or optician about this and they will refer you to an Orthoptist if necessary.

**Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs (SEN)** and also the Parents Guide (which simplifies the code). Get copies of both free from the Dept. for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) ☎ 0845 6 02 22 60, so you know how the system works.

**Discuss your concerns with your child's school and ask them to assess your child under the Code of Practice (Record of Need)** saying that you suspect he/she has Specific Learning Difficulties or dyslexia. Once your child is on the school based stages of the Code, **School Action or School Action Plus**, the teacher will write an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and you

should be involved in setting targets and asked in for regular reviews to discuss your child's progress, so make sure this happens. All schools receive funding to help children with SEN.

**Getting an Assessment.** If your child's problems continue or are causing you concern **ask the school to call in one of the Local Authority Dyslexia Advisors** (see table below), who can do a basic assessment and advise the school on how they can help your child. If things don't improve you may need to request a visit from an Educational Psychologist who can do a detailed series of tests to assess your child's level of difficulty. If your child's difficulties are very severe the Local Authority may decide to do a Statutory Assessment with a view to making a Statement of Special Educational Need. This is a legally binding document, which means your child is entitled to extra, specialised help as detailed in the Statement.

If the school does not seem to be very forthcoming, there are other ways of getting an assessment done. **Firstly** you can make direct contact with one of the **Local Authority Dyslexia Advisors** (see table below), who will strive to resolve your concerns. (You are also entitled to make direct contact with the Local Authority's Principal Education Psychologist.)

**Contacts in the Special Educational Needs department of the Local Authority:**  
**☎ 0300 1234 100** and ask for the person you wish to speak to:

Head of Service	Michael Peters
Principal Educational Psychologist	Mandy Owen
Dyslexia Advisor	Jane Beaumont ☎ 01579 34 56 50
Dyslexia Advisor	Sandra Page ☎ 01736 57 54 22

Before discussing your child's needs it may be useful to write a list of all his/her difficulties, not just with school work but in other areas such as speech, clumsiness, poor short term memory etc.

**For Private Assessments see our list of assessors on page 5**

**Coloured Lenses:** You may have heard that coloured or tinted lenses can help a dyslexic child with reading. Evidence is by no means conclusive, but certainly some children do seem to benefit from this - coloured acetate sheets laid over writing can be tried first to see if this helps. We know of three Opticians who can provide these glasses or acetate sheets:

Angie Taylor at Specsavers

☎ 01872 22 38 18

Grant Reid at Reid & Gordon

☎ 01872 27 52 25/01726 73 61 4

Janet Blything at Bradleys

☎ 01736 36 33 39

Bradleys has a colorimeter - a special instrument used to determine the exact tint, as does Specsavers in Barnstable. Charges vary so phone around and check prices, also ask your local optician if they offer this service. Transparent coloured Eye Level Reading Rulers are available from **Crossbow Education** 01785 66 09 02 or [www.crossboweducation.com](http://www.crossboweducation.com)

## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

**The British Dyslexia Association National Helpline** ☎ 0845 251 9002 [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk) (Many useful information sheets to print out or the website has the facility to read out text.)

**Dyspraxia Foundation National Helpline** ☎ 01462 45 49 86 10am - 1pm.

**AFASIC:** For children and young people with a range of communication impairments including articulation difficulties, Asperger syndrome, verbal dyspraxia and dysarthria. **National Helpline** ☎ 0845 3 55 55 77 10.30am - 2.30pm.

**SKILL:** The National Bureau for Students with disabilities produces a useful booklet on financial assistance for students in further education and training ☎ 0207 45 006 20. The booklet and other information is available on their website: [www.skill.org.uk](http://www.skill.org.uk) **Skill Information Service** for and about students with disabilities/learning difficulties, **National Helpline** ☎ 0800 3 28 50 50. 11am - 1.30pm Tuesdays, 1.30pm - 3.30pm Thursdays. [info@skill.org.uk](mailto:info@skill.org.uk)

**IPSEA:** Independent Panel of Special Education Advisers - lists Educational Psychologists and other professionals who can give advice on SEN related matters. ☎ 0800 0 18 40 16.

**ACE: Advisory Centre for Education National Helpline**

☎ 0808 8 00 57 93. 10am - 5.00 pm. Website [www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)

If the call is because of an exclusion ☎ 0207 7 04 98 22 for a free booklet or the **Exclusion Advice line** ☎ 0808 8 00 03 27.

**Connexions** for young people aged 13-19 - information and advice with education, work and training, as well as personal support (housing, health, money, relationships, rights etc) Freephone ☎ 0800 9 75 51 11 (You don't have to give your name or other details unless you want to.) Website [www.connexions-cd.org.uk](http://www.connexions-cd.org.uk)

**Parent Partnership:** Help and information for parents of children with SEN particularly assisting with meetings with schools.

Adele Nankervis (West) ☎ 01736 752826 Caroline Smith (East) ☎ 01579 363671

**Education Otherwise:** [www.education-otherwise.org/Groups/cornwall.htm](http://www.education-otherwise.org/Groups/cornwall.htm)

**Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre** (Dyslexia organisation with information on courses, teaching, publications etc) ☎ 01252 79 24 00 Website [www.arkellcentre.org.uk](http://www.arkellcentre.org.uk)

**Dyslexia Action** (Information about dyslexia, teaching qualifications and courses, resources and other useful information.) ☎ 01784 22 23 00 Website [www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)

**PATOSS** (Professional association of teachers with qualifications in teaching dyslexics - can provide list of qualified teachers). ☎ 01386 71 26 50 Website [www.patoss-dyslexia.org](http://www.patoss-dyslexia.org)

**BT Free Directory Enquiries:** BT service for anyone who is unable to use a telephone directory easily and it is available to diagnosed dyslexics. Call Free ☎ 195 for details.

### **GCSE, A Level, NVQ Examination Special Arrangements:**

Note it is not necessary for a pupil to have a Statement to be allowed special arrangements such as extra time in their exams. For some special arrangements schools can apply to the exam boards who will make the final decision. However check with the school/college that a request for special arrangements has been made well before the exam date.

**Booklet on the regulations available from the Joint Council** ☎ 02076 38 42 25 or [www.jcqq.org.uk](http://www.jcqq.org.uk)

**Exam Boards** (syllabuses, past exam papers, course work samples etc.)

OCR (GCSE) ☎ 01223 55 39 98                      OCR (NVQ) ☎ 02476 47 00 33

AQA (NEAB) ☎ 01619 53 11 80                      Edexcel ☎ 08702 40 98 00

AQA (AEB SEG) ☎ 01483 50 65 06

### **SATs Exam Special Arrangements**

Dyslexics are allowed certain special arrangements in SATs and schools now have guidelines on what special arrangements they can make. Copies of booklets on Assessment and reporting arrangements are available free of charge from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

**Dyslexia trained teachers-available privately.** (Contact the BDA or PATOSS to see lists of qualified teachers and the qualifications they hold.)

(\* Indicates teachers who teach adults as well as children)

(# Indicates teachers who also cover maths difficulties)

(A Indicates teachers who also do assessments)

Qualified consultants and assessors have their own scale of fees so please ask for details as rates and qualifications will vary.

*Please note the CDA provides lists of teachers and Educational Psychologists purely for information and we do not make any recommendations, we suggest you make your own checks and ask for references etc.*

*A	Angela Dawkins (Wadebridge)	01208 895545
	Patty Cushion (Helston)	01326 561859
*A	Heather Longman (The Lizard)	01326 290301
*A	Shirley Martin (Redruth)	01209 210774
#	Esme Tackley (Falmouth)	01326 315994
*#	David Dixon (Falmouth) <i>Maths only</i>	01326 311890
A	Delia Hazell (Truro)	01872 277373
*# A	Claire Green (Hayle)	07817 732566
*A	Jenny Smith (Stoke Climsland)	01579 370608
*A	Christine Rogers (St. Austell)	01726 70637
A	Joanna Jeffreys (Cornwall & Plymouth)	01752 663775
	Susan Nebesnuick (Penzance)	01736 332945
A	Jill Wrigley (Lostwithiel)	01208 871544
*A	Alison White (Par)	07979 755 703
*A	Nel West (Mount Hawke)	01209 890180
*A	Anne Betteridge (Helston) (16 plus only)	07762 883677
*A	Susan Holmes (Newquay)	01637 874176
A	Julia Smith (Truro)	01872 278930
*# A	Nikki Brown (Bodmin)	01208 832188
*#A	Angelika Kilian-Neal (Mithian, St Agnes)	07977 050450
A	Annette Martin (Falmouth)	01326 219282

You can also have your child assessed privately by an Educational Psychologist, but this will cost in the region of £400-£500.

**Educational Psychologists - available privately:**

Mick Biddulph ☎ 01392 876040 Available in Plymouth

Paul Sanderson ☎ 01872 552814 Mon-Wed day or Thurs-Fri pm.

Chris Onions ☎ 01579 342390

Monica Harding ☎ 01503 272842 (Adults and children aged 10 or over)

### Other Useful Information

**Suppliers of software and other equipment for dyslexics:**

**Iansyst:** ☎ 0800 0 18 00 45 [www.dyslexic.com](http://www.dyslexic.com)

**REM:** ☎ 01458 25 47 00 [www.r-e-m.co.uk](http://www.r-e-m.co.uk)

**SEN:** ☎ 01924 87 16 97 [www.sen.uk.com](http://www.sen.uk.com)

Many software companies will provide free trial discs, so you can try out a program before you buy it, so ask about this before purchasing.

### COMPUTERS FOR PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS

The **Arthur Rank Centre** is running a 'not for profit' scheme to provide people in rural areas with refurbished computers at low prices. For more information you can go to the Oasis website <http://www.oasiscfc.org> or contact, John Bennett ☎ 01276 85 3066 Email: [johnb@rase.org.uk](mailto:johnb@rase.org.uk)

**NAS: National Autistic Society National Helpline** ☎ 0845 0 70 40 04  
10am - 4pm. Advice and Support to people with autism, including Asperger's Syndrome, and their families. [www.nas.org.uk/](http://www.nas.org.uk/)

### Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)

Dyslexic students in Higher Education, who have been assessed as dyslexic, can apply for a DSA. Part-time students, studying at least 50% of a full-time degree course and post-graduate students are now eligible for this allowance, as well as students studying a degree through the Open University. The DSA may include equipment, such as a PC, hardware and appropriate software, an annual non-medical helper's allowance, which can include funding for ICT training, proof-reading, and an annual general allowance for books etc. To claim fill in form DSA1 and send it to Student Finance England ☎ 0845 300 50 90 (Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 8.00 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 9.00 am to 5.30 pm) Choose number that is to do with student loans when offered choices. [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)  
Email: [dsa\\_team@slc.co.uk](mailto:dsa_team@slc.co.uk)

**Student website** available for those in education who don't qualify for disability grants. This site allows you to still get software/hardware at student rates. [www.its4students.co.uk](http://www.its4students.co.uk)