

ADULTS WITH DYSLEXIA AND EMPLOYMENT

Adults who have a lot of difficulties associated with their dyslexia may find it difficult when it comes to getting a job. A bad experience at school can easily lead to lack of confidence and low self-esteem and especially if the difficulties were not recognised. Problems with reading and writing can also mean it may have been difficult to obtain GCSE, A-level and other qualifications and may make it difficult even to apply for jobs because of the need to fill in an application form!



EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED

If you are unemployed ask to see a Disability Employment Advisor (DEA) at the Jobcentre. If you explain that you are dyslexic and that you believe your difficulties are one of the main factors preventing you obtaining a job they should be able to offer help and guidance and possibly refer you for screening.

Once you are in employment you may qualify for help under the Access to Work scheme who may be able to help you with funding to provide such things as: special software, specialised equipment, a person to help you with organisational or time management problems, or even someone to take notes or write letters for you. For an application form for access to Work ☎ 029 20423 291 where you can fill in the application over the phone.

If you have recently started work it is useful to make contact with the

ATWA within the first six weeks of your employment, as there will be more funding available during this period. If you contact them after the first six weeks your employer has to contribute some of the money. Self-employed people can also get help of this kind and the ATWA can arrange to assess your needs in the workplace to identify the most appropriate help for you.

WORK CHOICE

The government now has a scheme called Work Choice which is designed to help disabled people, and those with severe dyslexia and complex barriers to work may qualify for support under this program.

Work choice helps people with disabilities whose needs cannot be met through other work programmes, Access to Work or workplace adjustments. This might be because you need more specialist support to find employment or keep a job once you have started work. If Work Choice is for you it will be tailored to meet your individual needs. It will focus on helping you achieve your full potential and moving towards being more independent.

If you are already on WORKSTEP, your WORKSTEP support adviser will talk to you about Work Choice and what the change means for you. If you are ready on Work Preparation or the Job Introduction Scheme, your Disability Employment Adviser (DEA) will talk to about Work Choice. If you do not have a DEA and want to know more about Work Choice contact your local Job centre Plus Office to arrange an appointment.

TUC publications may be available for dyslexic or visually impaired readers, on request, in an agreed electronic format or in accessible formats such as Braille, audio tape and large print, at no extra cost.

websales@tuc.org.uk ☎ 020 74 67 12 94

Careers South West for young people aged 13-19 they give information and advice with education, work, career guidance, training and getting a job as well as personal support (housing, health, money, relationships, rights etc).

Freephone ☎ 0800 9 75 51 11. Website www.careerssw.org

Nextstep - Adults aged 20 and over whether in work or unemployed can get practical help and advice about learning and work from Nextstep, including where to get help if you have a disability. To access your local Nextstep service call ☎ 0800 100 900 Website

www.nextstepsouthwest.org.uk

Free Directory Enquiries: BT service for anyone who is unable to use a telephone directory easily. It is available to diagnosed dyslexic people. Call free ☎195

Link into Learning Centres now Adult Education Services

Adult Education Services provides a range of support for adults who want to improve literacy and numeracy, but not all have dyslexia teachers.

Please contact us at our Dyslexia Drop-in Centre in Truro so we can advise you on this option and find the best place for you to go. ☎ 01872 222911.