

## FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT DYSLEXIA AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

This guide provides information for individuals, parents and employers who wish to find out more about Dyslexia and SpLD including guidance on assessment and tuition. The guide also signposts useful sources of information for those wishing to support individuals with Dyslexia/SpLD. This information is not comprehensive but aims to provide signposts to many of the useful resources available.

**Please note that Dyslexia Action is now solely a training provider and no longer provides advice, tuition and assessments.**

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## 1. Assessment and Tuition Services

The following organisations provide services or links to individuals offering tuition and/or assessment.

### **The Dyslexia Guild**

[training.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/membersdirectory](https://training.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/membersdirectory)

Provides a searchable directory of individual professionals offering tuition and assessment services for dyslexia/SpLD. It also displays whether someone holds an Assessment Practising Certificate (APC) which is a recognised standard for specialist SpLD teacher/assessors.

### **The National Dyslexia Network**

[ndnetwork.org/](https://ndnetwork.org/)

National Dyslexia Network learning centres provide advice, tuition and assessment services as well as support and training for schools and other educational organisations. Centres can be found across England and Wales covering the North East, North West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, Lincolnshire, East Midlands and London.

### **British Psychological Society**

[bps.org.uk/public/find-psychologist](https://bps.org.uk/public/find-psychologist)

A searchable database of psychologists offering assessment services. Psychologists may hold previous assessments undertaken by Dyslexia Action centres.

Search for type of psychologist as **Educational** and issue as **Dyslexia assessment**.

Educational Psychologists should also be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) See: [hcpc-uk.org/check-the-register/](https://hcpc-uk.org/check-the-register/)

### **Dyslexia Scotland**

[dyslexiascotland.org.uk/](https://dyslexiascotland.org.uk/)

### **Helen Arkell**

[helenarkell.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/assessments.php](https://helenarkell.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/assessments.php)

### **PATOSS Tutor Assessor Index**

[patoss-dyslexia.org/Tutor-Index-Landing](https://patoss-dyslexia.org/Tutor-Index-Landing)

#### **Please note:**

- College and University students should contact their Student Support Services within the college or university they are studying with in the first instance
- Parents of children at school or sixth form should contact the school Learning Support, SEND or SENCo in the first instance
- For reports to be acceptable for DSA evidence regardless of the age of the candidate, the author must hold a current [SpLD APC](#) and follow SASC guidelines or be [HCPC registered at the time of the assessment](#) (February 2019).

## 2. Information and Resources for Parents

### **The Dyslexia Action Shop**

The Dyslexia Action Shop provides a comprehensive range of resources and support materials for individuals with dyslexia/SpLD.

[dyslexiaactionshop.co.uk](https://dyslexiaactionshop.co.uk)

### **CReSTeD – The Council for the Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Pupils**

[crested.org.uk/](https://crested.org.uk/)

Provides a searchable regional list of schools offering specialist tuition to children with literacy difficulties

### **The Helen Arkell Centre**

[helenarkell.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/support-parents.php](https://helenarkell.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/support-parents.php)

### **Open University: Open Learn Resources**

[open.edu/openlearn/](https://open.edu/openlearn/)

Free short courses available on dyslexia including:

- What is dyslexia?
- Understanding dyslexia

## 3. Resources to support Reading and Literacy

### **Alpha to Omega: An A-Z of Teaching reading, writing and spelling**

by Beve Hornsby and Frula Shear

### **Nessy for Parents and Home schoolers**

[nessy.com/us/parents/](https://nessy.com/us/parents/)

### **Teach your Monster to Read**

[teachyourmonstertoread.com/](https://teachyourmonstertoread.com/)

### **Teaching pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

[bit.ly/2V9pKuD](https://bit.ly/2V9pKuD)

These modular materials were designed to support teachers in mainstream schools who wish to gain advanced and specialist skills for teaching pupils with specific learning difficulties including Dyslexia. They may also be of wider interest.

**Interventions for Literacy:** What works for children and young people with literacy difficulties? A review of intervention schemes for literacy and their effectiveness.

[interventionsforliteracy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/What-Works-5th-edition-Rev-Oct-2016.pdf](https://interventionsforliteracy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/What-Works-5th-edition-Rev-Oct-2016.pdf)

### **Units of Sound: Literacy that fits**

A stand-alone family user programme which has all the features of the popular Units of Sound used to teach reading and spelling in schools and colleges.

[unitsofsound.com/at-home-2/](https://unitsofsound.com/at-home-2/)

## 4. Assistive Technology

What is Assistive Technology and Types of Assistive Technology

[iansyst.co.uk/technology/](https://iansyst.co.uk/technology/)

Mind mapping

[mindmeister.com/blog/students-guide-to-mind-mapping/](https://mindmeister.com/blog/students-guide-to-mind-mapping/)

See also books by Tony Buzan on Mind mapping.

Scanning Pens

[scanningpens.co.uk](https://scanningpens.co.uk)

Text to Speech Software

[techradar.com/news/the-best-free-text-to-speech-software](https://techradar.com/news/the-best-free-text-to-speech-software)

## 5. Training for Teachers and Support Staff

Please pass on this information on to teachers or support tutors in schools or colleges. **Dyslexia Action Training** provides specialist online training for teachers, teaching assistants and support tutors. See: [dyslexiaaction.org.uk](https://dyslexiaaction.org.uk)

### **The Dyslexia Guild:**

The membership organisation for professionals teaching and supporting individuals with dyslexia/SpLD. See: [dyslexiaguild.org.uk/](https://dyslexiaguild.org.uk/)

## 6. Other Useful Sources of Information

### **The ADHD Foundation**

[adhdfoundation.org.uk/](https://adhdfoundation.org.uk/)

### **The Autism Education Trust**

[autismeducationtrust.org.uk/](https://autismeducationtrust.org.uk/)

### **The British Dyslexia Association**

[bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/assessments](https://bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/assessments)

### **The Communication Trust**

[thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/](https://thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/)

### **Dyspraxia Foundation**

[dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/](https://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/)

### **Mental Health Foundation**

[mentalhealth.org.uk/](https://mentalhealth.org.uk/)

### **National Autistic Society**

[autism.org.uk](https://autism.org.uk)

### **Pdnet: a network for those supporting learners with physical disability**

[pdnet.org.uk/](https://pdnet.org.uk/)

### **Young Minds**

[youngminds.org.uk/](https://youngminds.org.uk/)