

Finding out more about Dyslexia and specific learning difficulties

This guide is for **individuals, parents, and employers** who want to learn more about **Dyslexia and SpLD**.

It offers **initial guidance** on topics such as **assessment and tuition**, and directs you to **useful resources** for supporting people with these difficulties.

Important Notes:

- This information is not comprehensive; it provides key pointers to many available resources
- **Dyslexia Action** is now exclusively a **teacher training organisation** and no longer offers advice, tuition, or assessments.

First Steps for Students and Parents

Before seeking an external assessment or tutor, start with your educational institution:

- College and University Students: Contact your Student Support Services first
- School or Sixth Form Parents: Contact the school's Learning Support, SEND, or SENCo first

DSA Report Requirements

For assessment reports to be accepted for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), the assessor must:

- Hold a current SpLD APC and follow [SASC guidelines](#)
or
- Be [HCPC registered](#) at the time of the assessment

You can verify an assessor's [APC status on the SASC website](#).

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1. Find an assessor or tutor

When hiring an assessor, always ask about their qualifications, you may want to verify that they hold a current [Assessment Practising Certificate \(APC\)](#).

Organisation	Website	Key Information
The Dyslexia Guild	Find a Professional Directory	Find specialists in this directory, including APC holders and those qualified for dyslexia tuition and assessments. A handy PDF guide is available at the top to help you search.
PATOSS	Tutor Assessor Index	Directory for finding tutors and assessors.
British Psychological Society (BPS)	Find a Psychologist	Search for an Educational Psychologist.
British Dyslexia Association - BDA (Charity)	Helpline Assessments	A charity that offers assessments and a helpline (0333 405 4567).
Dyslexia Network	Tuition & Assessment Services	Provides direct advice, tuition, and assessment in specific locations (York, Harrogate, Humberside, Lincoln, Newark).
Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC)	Register	A Register of health and care professionals who meet HCPC standards for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.
Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity	Assessments	Offers assessment services for adults and children.
Dyslexia Scotland	Information & Services	Provides information and services specific to Scotland.

2. Information and Resources for Parents

Organisation	Website	Key Information
CReSTeD (Council for the Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Pupils)	crested.org.uk	CReSTeD provides a searchable regional list of schools offering specialist tuition to children with literacy difficulties.
The Dyslexia Action Shop	dyslexiaactionsshop.co.uk	The Dyslexia Action Shop provides a comprehensive range of resources and support materials for individuals with dyslexia/SpLD.
Helen Arkell	Information and Advice	Dyslexia Charity.
IPSEA Independent Provider of Special Education Advice	ipsea.org.uk	A charity in the field of SEND law in England. They provide help and information to parents to secure the education your child is entitled to.
Whole School SEND	wholeschoolsend.org.uk/page/online-cpd-units	You must be logged into your free nasen or Whole School SEND account to access these online units.

3. Resources to support Reading and Literacy

Organisation	Website	Key Information
Alpha to Omega	dyslexiaactionshop.co.uk	An A-Z of Teaching reading, writing and spelling by Beve Hornsby and Frula Shear. Note: This book is for teachers rather than parents.
The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust	interventionsforliteracy.org.uk	Interventions for Literacy: What works for children and young people with literacy difficulties? A review of intervention schemes for literacy and their effectiveness.
Nessy	nessy.com/en-us/dyslexia-explained	Widely used for whole-class instruction in phonics, math, typing, and early reading.
RNIB Bookshare	https://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/independent-living/reading-and-books/rnib-bookshare/	Offers a range of accessible textbooks and educational materials to support the personal needs of learners with print disabilities such as dyslexia in different formats.
RNIB Talking Books	https://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/independent-living/reading-and-books/talking-books/	Talking Books service is absolutely free. Giving you access to over 40,000 fiction and non fiction books for adults and children in accessible formats that suits you.
Teach your Monster to Read	teachyourmonster.org/	A fun, educational game-based tool for young children learning to read.
Units of Sound: Literacy that fits	nisai.com/unitsofsound/	Supports individuals (ages 8+) to improve reading, spelling, and writing skills in English.

4. Assistive Technology

Organisation	Website
Ability Net	abilitynet.org.uk
CALL Scotland	callscotland.org.uk/information/dyslexia
What is Assistive Technology and Types of Assistive Technology	iansyst.co.uk/technology
Mind mapping	mindmeister.com/blog/students-guide-to-mind-mapping See also books by Tony Buzan on Mind mapping.
Scanning Pens	scanningpens.co.uk
Text to Speech Software	echradar.com/news/the-best-free-text-to-speech-software
Fonetti	fonetti.com Uses the power of the child's own voice to accelerate reading improvements and boost reader confidence, whilst giving teachers actionable reading data to drive effective classroom interactions.

5. Training for Teachers and Support Staff

Organisation	Website	Key Information
Dyslexia Action Training	dyslexiaaction.org.uk	Provide specialist online training for teachers, teaching/learning support assistants, support tutors, SENCos, tutors from further and higher education, speech and language therapists and psychologists.
Real Training	realtraining.co.uk	A leading provider of online training in SEND, mental health and professional assessment

6. Professional SpLD Membership

Organisation	Website	Key Information
The Dyslexia Guild	dyslexiaguild.org.uk	A professional network for specialist teachers, assessors and practitioners supporting individuals with dyslexia and other literacy difficulties. The Guild also issues Assessment Practising Certificates and can offer advice to teachers looking to gain an APC.

6. Other Useful Sources of Information

Organisation	Website
The Autism Education Trust	autismeducationtrust.org.uk
Mental Health Foundation	mentalhealth.org.uk
National Autistic Society	autism.org.uk
Pdnet: A network for those supporting learners with physical disability	pdnet.org.uk/
Young Minds	youngminds.org.uk/