

# SEND AWARE

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## SEN NATIONAL ADVICE HELPLINE

A new helpline has been backed and funded by the current government. The Contact a Family charity has been given the job of maintaining a helpline for families, working as a country-wide advice service-the SEN National Advice Service.

The service will help families whose child may have special educational needs, to provide help, support and advice on any aspect of their child's education.

There is a designated helpline:

0808 808 3555, Facebook and Twitter links for queries, and trained SEN advisers will make contact with families direct. E-mail queries can also be sent to:

[helpline@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cafamily.org.uk)



### GOVERNMENT VISION FOR SEN

The Executive Summary highlights the poor life chances for the two million or so children and young people in England who are indentified as having SEN or who are disabled. The vision for SEND comments on the frustrations felt by families trying to access support in schools, the lack of proper knowledge or understanding, the poor communication and a system that often works against the wishes of families. The government feels that there are low expectations of children with SEN, that the system is complicated and works against their wishes.

Find out more at: [www.education.gov.uk/](http://www.education.gov.uk/)

- New single early years and school-based category of SEN
- Single assessment process
- Personal budgets
- Parental choice

# DYSLEXIA-WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Dyslexia is a hidden disability that affects reading, writing and spelling. It may also affect short-term memory, processing speed, mathematical ability, personal organisation, sequencing and emotional/social competency.

The condition is caused by differences in the 'wiring' of language areas in the brain. It can be inherited. The 'differences' affect how information is acquired, processed and understood. It can occur at any level of intelligence and regardless of race, age and class. The most disadvantaged will, however, suffer the most throughout their lives.

## **Look out for:**

- Is bright in some ways but has a 'block' in others

Need more advice?  
Want to know more  
about dyslexia? Come  
and see DB!

- Has difficulty reading; is a slow reader, misses letters or lines
- Has particular difficulty with spelling
- Has poor handwriting.
- Has difficulty carrying out three instructions in sequence.
- Has problems with reading comprehension.
- Has difficulty with mathematics.
- Puts figures and letters the wrong way round, '51' for '15' or 'was' for 'saw'
- Has difficulty understanding time or tense
- Answers orally but cannot write it down
- Confuses left and right
- Lack of phonological awareness

## **IT'S ME-HAVE YOUR SAY**

It's Me stands for It's my Education and is a website set up by Dyslexia Action for children, young adults and adults to share their stories of being a person with dyslexia: [www.itsme.org.uk](http://www.itsme.org.uk)

The appeal aims to raise funds to support specialist support and teaching. Former Strictly Come Dancing champion and Don't Call Me Stupid actress is keen to support the work of this charity to ensure that her experiences of being a child with dyslexia are not the experience of future children. She feels that dyslexia is more than literacy-it affects every aspect of your life.

