

For tutors: Dyspraxia

Introduction

Dyspraxia is lifelong. It can impact on co-ordination and the organisation of movement. It may also be associated with problems of perception, language and thought. Students with dyspraxia may have difficulties communicating and organising mathematical information, speed of processing, and concentration. It should be recognised that dyspraxia may present along a spectrum of difficulties meaning individual strength and weaknesses may vary.

Impact on Mathematics (suggested strategies in brackets)

- Slower writing of notes and leaving tasks unfinished (A, C, D, E, G, K, L, M)
- Difficulty reading their writing/calculations (F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M)
- Organisation and time management (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, M)
- Procrastination (A, C, D, E, M)
- Concepts of time (A, D, E, K, M)
- Spatial awareness, 2D and 3D, shapes, use of equipment - compass, protractor, ruler (B, F, I, J, K)
- Working memory and speed of processing (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M)
- Fine and gross motor coordination, handwriting and holding pens (G, K)

Strategies to Help

- A. Encourage the student to stay on task
- B. Allow time for the student to read
- C. Use folders, file dividers to keep work organised
- D. Use alarms on phones to help with time management
- E. Set micro-targets to manage procrastination
- F. Use of colour for different aspects of a problem, e.g., different variables
- G. Use bullet points to break up the text
- H. Make a list or glossary of technical words, symbols or notation
- I. Use diagrams where possible
- J. Use squared paper
- K. Encourage the student to use software based equation building software
- L. Encourage the student to check for mistakes
- M. Write down what you say as the student will be likely to not recall this

Further information

Further assistance on time management, organisational and other study skills can be accessed from your Disability Department or relevant Student Support.

Further general information is available from Cowen, M. (2010). Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dyscalculia for <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-services/documents/rcn---dyslexiadyspraxiadyscalculia---toolkit-for-nursing-staff.pdf>