**Phase 1.2 - Primary Research on Dyslexia**

**Introduction**

We conducted primary research by meeting with two representatives (Cora and Fidelma) from our local dyslexia group - Clare Dyslexia Association. They themselves have children with dyslexia so they gave us some useful information on difficulties a dyslexic person encountered while learning in school and offered suggestions that will help us in phase 2 of our project.

**Findings**

We were able to confirm our secondary research findings such as people with dyslexia have major difficulties with reading and spellings. When reading a sentence, they visualise every word. For example: The cat jumps over the mat. They pick out key words such as cat, mat and jump to visualise what the sentence means. When they are asked a question, they will do the same to process the question (they think pictorially in order to decode a problem).

We also found out that people with dyslexia find it difficult to learn when they are in primary school (due to having to learn to read, write, spell and mathematics etc.) but it gets better as they progress to secondary school and third level. Another problem a dyslexic person encounter is looking at the white-board for a long period of time. They get really tired after looking at the board for a long time and finds it hard to concentrate. This is something we must take into account when coming up with contents/guide in phase 2.

**Other Suggestions**

They also gave us feedback on the survey application. They suggested to use a creamy or grey colour background instead of white as this will help them read better. They also suggested that we could add another question at the start of the survey if they have other dyslexic conditions such Asperger syndrome, ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), etc. Other suggestions were to incorporate the use of images/pictures and multisensory learning method in the next phase of our project.

**Conclusion**

It was a beneficial and informative meeting with the two representatives from Clare Dyslexia Association. We were able to confirm our secondary research findings and learned a lot more about dyslexia and difficulties a dyslexic person may have when learning. This meeting really helped us in getting first-hand information on how a dyslexic person solve problems and how they think (visualise). A person with dyslexia may have difficulties with reading and spelling but they may be gifted in other areas such as programming and creative activities(art).