

Some tips, tricks and strategies to assist neuro-diverse/dyslexic learners with online/remote learning

There is a risk that learners who have dyslexia or are neuro-diverse in some other way will struggle even more in the current online digital learning environment. This is especially true if there is lots of text involved, or perhaps more text than would have been the case if the lessons had been face-to-face in a classroom.

There are estimates that indicate at least half of adult low literacy is down to undiagnosed dyslexia.

General points

1. Start with the mindset that “dyslexia is a difference – not a disability”.
2. Let your learners know that is your view. Let it be known that it is “OK” to be dyslexic.
3. Make sure you are well informed yourself about dyslexia/neurodiversity.
4. If possible, have an individual conversation with any learner known to be dyslexic to find out which things they find difficult. Every learner with dyslexia is different.

Specific points

1. Remember PowerPoint presentations are not their friend. If using them, make a point of making them available to learners who are dyslexic in advance of the lesson.
2. If possible, present information both orally and in writing.
3. Use as many charts, diagrams, mind-maps and pictures as you can.
4. Use the latest best practice in presenting text information. It really does make a difference.
5. Encourage the use of technology as much as possible.
 - **Technology on phones**
Encourage learners to use speech to text functions for text messages, emails and notes.
Encourage learners to use the camera function as much as possible.
 - **Technology on laptops**
Encourage learners to use the “Read Aloud” function to read out text.
The background colour of screens can be changed to suit those with Irlen’s Syndrome.
6. For assessments and assignments, etc. consider alternatives to written evidence of learning. Consider oral activities, posters, group work, etc.
7. Provide extra assistance with things like proof reading. Be realistic about “creative” spelling.