LITERACY DIFFICULTIES
DYSLEXIA
SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDER

speaking listening reading writing
SpeechEase
Speech Pathology

WHAT IS IT?

When a child is experiencing slower than normal acquisition of skills in reading and/or writing. Dyslexia is a term previously commonly used to describe reading and writing difficulties. The new, preferred term is "Specific Learning Disorder".

ASSESSMENT

A specialist's assessment and recommendations can guide teachers to select more appropriate interventions and provide more individualised support for the child.

WHO DOES IT?

- Educational Psychologists for diagnosis
- Speech Pathologists with experience in literacy difficulties can provide therapy and refer for formal diagnosis
- Educational tutors experienced with dyslexia and literacy difficulties can provide therapy and refer for formal diagnosis.

WHY A DIAGNOSIS OF SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDER?

1. More targeted intervention, and also allow for parents, teachers and the children themselves to better understand their learning needs.
2. Receive extra time or exemptions during assessments (e.g., NAPLAN, VCE).
3. May also allow the child to receive extra support at school.

STEPS TO TAKE IF YOUR CHILD HAS LITERACY DIFFICULTIES...

01 Get in touch with a Speech Pathologist or Literacy Tutor who knows dyslexia/specific learning disorders. Get an assessment and start therapy immediately.

02 Speak to your school and inform them about your child's difficulties. Request the school to meet with your Speechie/Tutor. Ensure a consistent approach to literacy teaching.

03 Join support groups for parents who have children with difficulties. The Dyslexia Victoria Facebook Group is a wealth of information. Other useful sites: SPELD, Australia Dyslexia Association (ADA), Spelfabet

04 Recommended approaches/programs: Systematic and Synthetic Phonics (SSP), Toe by Toe, Multi-Lit, Sounds-Write, Orton-Gillingham Multi-Sensory Learning (MSL)

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Disclaimer: every effort has been made to ensure the information here is correct. However, there may be some errors due to updates and changes in government policy/funding. It is up to the families to confirm the information with the relevant government bodies.