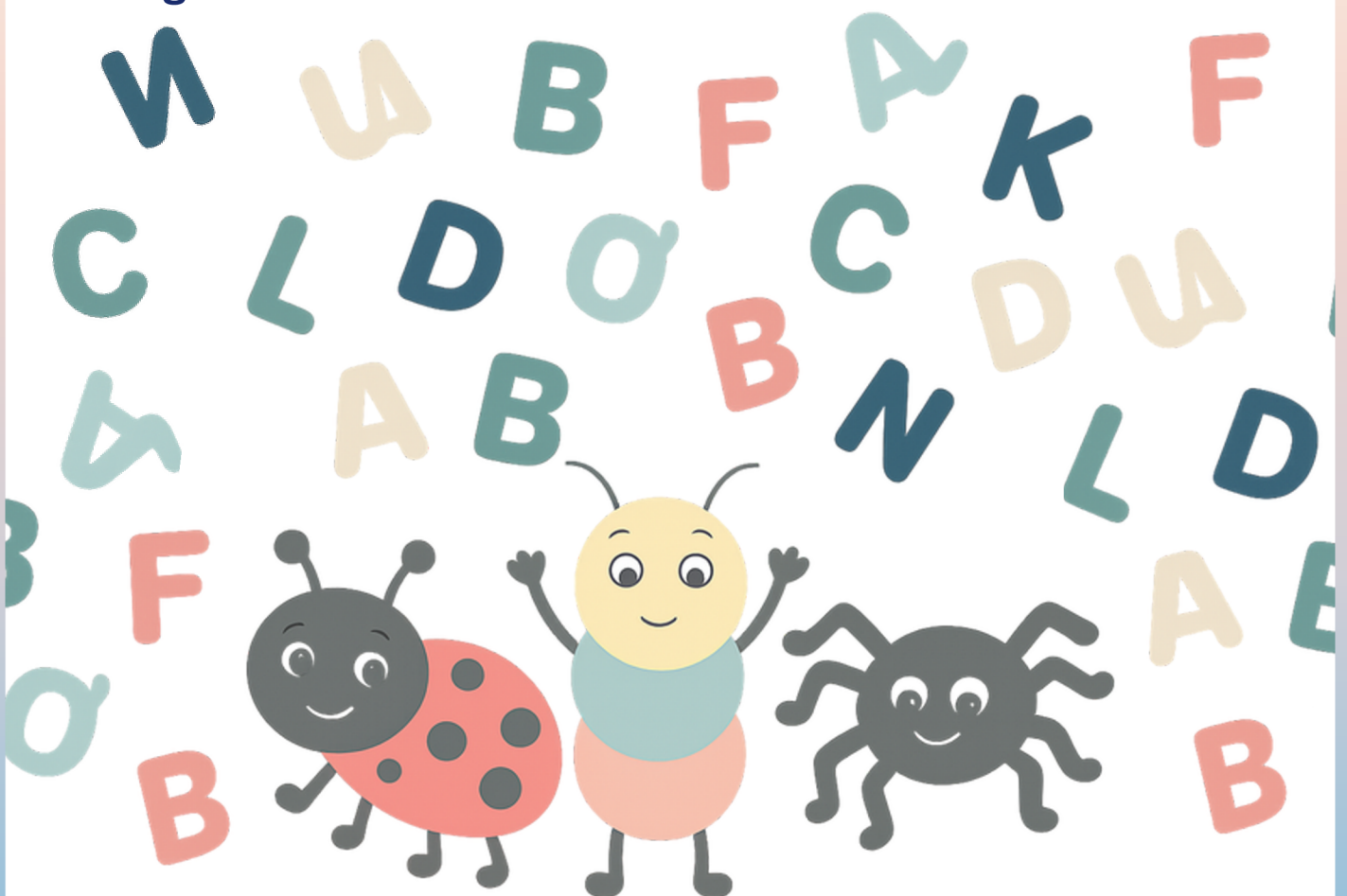


Great Minds Together

Supporting Dyslexic Learners

Dyslexia is a form of neurodivergence that affects how a person processes language, memory, and sequencing. It can influence reading, spelling, and written expression, but it also brings unique strengths in creativity, problem-solving and visual thinking. Dyslexic learners often find innovative ways to engage with and understand the world. Our role is to create environments that recognise and support these strengths.



Common Characteristics

Every dyslexic learner is different, but they may experience some of the following:

Differences when hearing or distinguishing between sounds in words (phonological awareness)

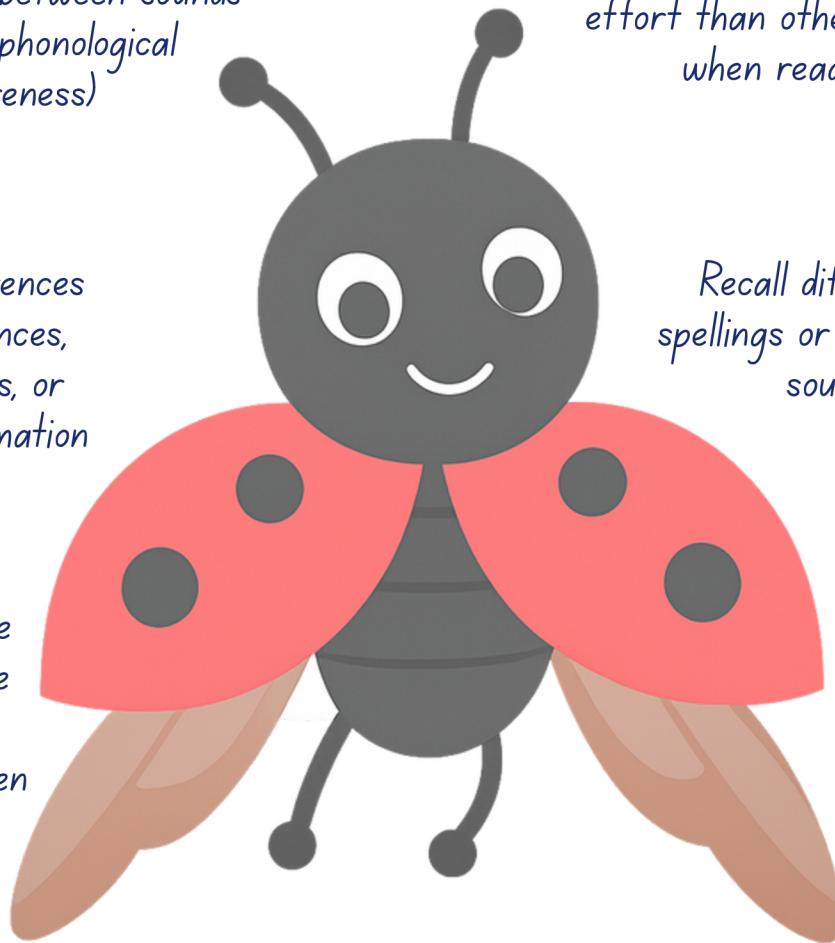
May find reading requires more effort than others, particularly when reading aloud

Recall differences with sequences, instructions, or verbal information

Recall differences with spellings or linking letters to sounds etc...

May need more processing time working with written or spoken language

Strong visual-spatial reasoning, creativity, and problem-solving skills



Celebrating Strengths

Dyslexic learners often excel in creative thinking, empathy, and seeing connections others may miss. By focusing on these strengths, we build confidence and belonging. Key ingredients for lifelong learning.

Supportive Strategies

Support should focus on access, not correction. The goal is to remove barriers and empower dyslexic learners to thrive.

Classroom and Learning Environment

- Provide calm, structured spaces with minimal distractions.
- Allow extra processing time and reduce timed tasks where possible.
- Use dyslexia-friendly fonts and coloured backgrounds to reduce visual stress.

Teaching and Communication

- Offer instructions in both spoken and written form.
- Break down complex tasks into small, manageable steps.
- Encourage learners to explain what supports them best.
- Praise effort, creativity and problem-solving rather than speed or accuracy.

Building Confidence and Wellbeing

- Help learners recognise their unique strengths and strategies.
- Create an environment where mistakes are part of learning.
- Foster a growth mindset: “It’s not that I can’t, it’s that I can learn in a different way.”

Reading and Writing Support

- Use assistive technology (text-to-speech, audiobooks, dictation tools).
- Offer alternative assessment methods (oral, visual, or project-based).
- Provide scaffolded writing supports such as sentence starters or templates.
- Focus on comprehension and communication over spelling perfection.



Practical Adjustments and Tools

Creating accessible and inclusive written information helps everyone. Small changes in how we present text, colour, and layout can make a big difference for dyslexic people.

Readable Text

- Use clear, easy-to-read fonts such as Arial, Verdana, Tahoma, Century Gothic, Trebuchet, Calibri, or Open Sans.
- Font size is best between 12–14pt for most documents.
- Avoid italics and underlining, as these can make words appear crowded – **use bold for emphasis instead.**
- Use lower-case letters where possible, as these are easier to read than continuous capital letters.
- Add extra space around headings and between paragraphs to support visual clarity.

Colour and Background

- Use single-colour backgrounds and avoid patterns or busy designs.
- Ensure good contrast between text and background – dark text on a soft pastel or cream background is often easier to read than black on bright white.
- Avoid red/green or pink/green combinations, which may be difficult for people with colour vision differences.
- Where possible, use matt paper rather than glossy, to reduce glare.
- Everyone's visual comfort is different – where possible, check individual colour preferences.

Writing Style

- Be clear and concise; short sentences are easier to process.
- Use bullet points or numbered lists instead of long paragraphs.
- Use plain, everyday language and avoid jargon.
- Add images, icons, or flow charts to support understanding.
- Separate key actions or next steps from general information.

Helpful Tools and Resources

- Microsoft To Do – for task organisation and reminders.
- Grammarly – for proofreading and writing support.
- ChatGPT or AI writing tools – for help rewording or summarising text.
- Dyslexia-Friendly Style Guide – British Dyslexia Association.