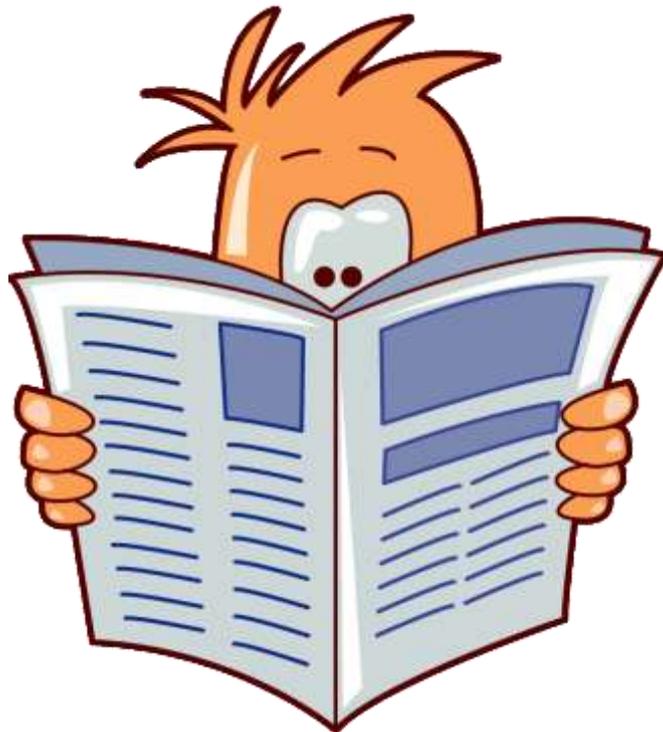


WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?



**A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE MAIN
THOUGHTS ON DYSLEXIA AND HOW
WE CAN RECOGNISE THE CONDITION**

Burt 
Books

So much is written about dyslexia and everyone has their own ideas about what it is and what causes it. Many definitions have been penned and all are a bit different in what they emphasise. The definition that the British Dyslexia Association has formulated reads:

“Dyslexia is a complex neurological condition which is constitutional in origin. The symptoms may affect areas of learning and function, and may be described as a specific difficulty in reading and written language. One or more of these areas may be affected. Numeracy, notational skills(music), motor function and organisational skills may also be involved. However it is particularly related to mastering written language, although oral language may be affected to some degree. (BDA 1996)

Lots of difficult words to get our heads around! In very simple language, dyslexia can be described as a condition with a range of symptoms that affect a person’s ability to progress at what may be considered the “normal” rate in areas such as reading, spelling, numeracy and organisational skills.

There are varying degrees of dyslexia and a person may be considered to have severe, moderate or mild dyslexia depending on the “symptoms” that are displayed and how far the difficulties that a person has vary from what

may be considered average or “normal” for their age group.

How to “diagnose” dyslexia

It is important to stress that only a qualified person such as an educational psychologist should do a full evaluation and diagnosis of your child’s educational problem. However, there are a set of accepted criteria which point to the PROBABILITY of a child being dyslexic. Parents can check this list and then speak to a qualified professional about their concerns if they feel that too many of the symptoms on the list apply to their child.

- Appear to be intelligent but is unable to read, write, or spell at age appropriate level.
- Teachers don’t seem to think there is a problem and he will “mature” in time
- They express negative self-image feelings eg I am SO stupid.
- Often daydream and lose track of time
- Will try anything NOT to read – might say they feel ill or have a tummy ache.
- Confuse certain letters eg b d and p or u and n
- Difficulty with vision, yet eye tests don't reveal a

problem.

- Seem to read with very little understanding of what has been read because the reading is so slow and disjointed.
- problems learning the names and sounds of letters
- spelling is unpredictable and inconsistent
- have problems copying written language
- speech development is delayed in comparison with other children of the same age
- speech problems: eg: Not able to pronounce long words Jumble up words eg hostipal – at an age when these words should be pronounced correctly.
- Have little understanding of rhyming words, such as „the cat sat on the mat“, or nursery rhymes
- Difficulty or little interest in, learning the letters of the alphabet
- handwriting varies or is illegible
- often confuses left/right, over/under.

The good news!

The Burt Remedial Reading Scheme can help a pupil who displays some or even all of these symptoms. And YOU the parent can do it!

How can a parent help?

YOU, the parent, can help your child to improve his/her reading skills.

You may not be a teacher, or have higher education qualifications but you can still succeed in promoting your child's reading abilities to the point where he/she reads with understanding and a fair amount of fluency. Tutors charge high hourly rates and most parents would only be able to afford an hour per week (financial and time constraints!)

An hour per week is often not a very satisfactory method of tutoring a child. By the time the next lesson comes along the child may have already lost the benefit of the previous week's lesson.

The most effective method of tutoring a child is to have daily reinforcement – 15 – 20 minutes a day.

The BURT READING SCHEME is designed to help parents to tutor their own child effectively at home on a daily basis.