



DiverseMind

SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES





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What Are SLDs

SLDs

Specific Learning Difficulty (SLD) is an umbrella term that encompasses a range of neurodevelopmental conditions that affect an individual's ability to acquire and use academic skills. These difficulties are not related to intelligence but rather differences in cognitive processing (British Dyslexia Association, 2022).

Identifying SLDs

For the sake of this manual we have decided to focus on 4 specific SLDs



Our Chosen SLDs

SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

01

Dyslexia

03

Dysgraphia

02

Developmental
Coordination
Disorder

04

Dyscalculia



IDENTIFYING DYSLEXIA

▶ Spelling

Students might struggle to spell basic words, jumble up letters, spell the same word wrong in different ways, and struggle to identify errors in their work.

▶ Executive Functioning

Students might have issues with punctuality, organisation, personal hygiene, etc. Although subtle, these issues can affect their work ethic and social standing.

▶ Comprehension

Students might struggle to identify comprehension questions within a text. Reading between the lines might be difficult. Decoding information can be a struggle



IDENTIFYING DYSCALCULIA

▶ **Mathematics Anxiety**

Students with dyscalculia will exhibit higher levels of maths anxiety than neurotypical students. This can manifest as missing lots of maths class, being sad in class, refusing to work, finding basic requests difficult

▶ **Number Confusion**

Some students with dyscalculia will mess up basic operations, struggle with the concept of minus numbers, they may even write numbers backwards or incoherently.



IDENTIFYING DYSGRAPHIA

▶ Illegible Handwriting

Dysgraphia manifests as messy handwriting to the point of illegible handwriting. Students with dysgraphia might rush through writing tasks to end them quickly. Even through interventions, there will be little to no improvement.



IDENTIFYING DYSPRAXIA

▶ **Coordination Issues**

Students might appear clumsy, they might rock on the chair, bump into things, stumble and fumble. This can affect mobility and possibly delay students to class.

▶ **Executive Functioning**

Students might have issues with punctuality, organisation, personal hygiene, etc. Although subtle, these issues can affect their work ethic and social standing.





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Supporting SLDs In Class



Dyslexia

Provide spelling & grammar waiver to students. Allow the use of assistive technology. Allow students extra time on written assignments.

Dysgraphia

Teachers should encourage Assistive Technology usage. Students should be reminded that their writing doesn't affect their ability to achieve. Confidence-building is key.

Dyspraxia

Teachers should provide organisational support. Mobility assistance. Make sure the classroom is accessible.

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