

SCREENING and ASSESSMENT

Dyslexia is not considered a medical issue and forms no part of medical training. Although dyslexia is recognised under the Equality Act (2010) unlike other disabilities diagnosis is not funded by the NHS. A GP would therefore not normally be able to help with funding a diagnostic assessment for dyslexia and would be unlikely to have knowledge of appropriate assessors. Screening or assessments are normally funded by the individual or sometimes their employer.

Screening Tests

"Screening tests are designed to give an indication of possible dyslexic difficulties. They are not a diagnosis and are not 100% accurate.

Where the test indicates a moderate or high probability of dyslexic difficulties, the best course of action is to follow up with a full diagnostic assessment. This would determine the precise nature of dyslexic and related difficulties. However if this is not possible, it should not prevent the child from receiving appropriate specialist tuition.

There are many different types of screening tests: Some are delivered by computer, others need to be administered by a teacher. Some just give an estimate as to whether the child/person is likely to have dyslexic difficulties. A few offer a more detailed profile of strengths and weaknesses which help inform an appropriate teaching strategy".

Ref: British Dyslexia Association website

Online screening test.

This is a short computerised test, for adults, accessed via the internet. It does not look at generic history or background, nor explore other areas or problems, or allow any questions to be asked. It will provide a printout of the results and the probability of dyslexia being high, medium, low or borderline.

Cost is in the region of £30 see: www.spot-your-potential.com

One to One screening test.

North Warwickshire & Coventry Dyslexia Association (NWCDA) offers a screening service for both children (age 4-15) and adults (age 16 plus). Our volunteer screeners use the LUCID Rapid and LUCID LADS programs, and following the screening will provide a brief written report. The cost of our screening is £20 plus the travel expenses (40p per mile) for the volunteer to come to your home.

Adults may also get screening and support at:

Adult Dyslexia Support, email: enquiry@adultdyslexiasupport.co.uk

www.adultdyslexiasupport.co.uk

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Full Diagnostic Assessments

"Diagnostic Assessments should always be conducted by a certified person, qualified to assess, e.g. Chartered Psychologist specialising in Specific Learning Difficulties or Specialist Teacher/Assessor with an AMBDA qualification.

An assessor should conduct a battery of cognitive, ability and literacy/numeracy attainment tests. The results should show the pattern of strengths and weaknesses and give recommendations for remediation.

However, when choosing an assessor the purpose of the assessment should be taken into consideration. For example:

- If the report is needed to support an application for the Disabled Student Allowance, it should be conducted post 16 years of age and carried out by an accredited assessor who also holds a Practising Certificate.
- If it is for the workplace, ideally it should be by a Chartered Psychologist who is competent to act as an expert witness if called upon".

Ref: British Dyslexia Association website

Finding an Assessor

Chartered Educational Psychologists (EPs) can be found on the website of the British Psychological Society www.bps.org.uk.

Locally, you can get an EP assessment at:

- Dyslexia Action (Coventry) tel: 024 7625 7041
- Dyslexia Action (Sutton Coldfield) tel: 0121 354 6855
See: www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk
- Aston University - Dyslexia & Development Assessment Unit tel: 0121 204 3882
See: www.aston.ac.uk/lhs/research/centres-facilities/brain-centre/facilities-clinical-services/dyslexia/

Specialist Tutors who have additional assessment qualifications - a Practising Certificate for Assessments (APC), are also able to diagnose dyslexia.

- PATOSS (The Professional Association of Tutors of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties) publish a "Tutor Index"
See www.patoss-dyslexia.org
Tel: 01386 712 650
- Dyslexia Positive tutor assessors specialise in helping adults.
For more information, see www.dyslexiapositive.org.uk
Tel: 07816 672692

Access Arrangements

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publish a booklet, entitled "Access Arrangements and Special Consideration: Regulations and Guidance Relating to Candidates who are Eligible

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for Adjustments in GCE, VCE, GCSE, GNVQ, Entry Level & Key Skills Examinations", which is updated every autumn. This booklet can be downloaded from www.jcq.org.uk.

JCQ members are the six examination boards in England, Wales and Scotland. The booklet includes the Table of JCQ approved qualifications for teachers who may assess for access arrangements. It does not include a list of appropriate tests."

Ref: British Dyslexia Association Website

PATOSS (Professional Association of Teachers of Specific Learning Difficulties)

See Patoss' website for guidance on assessments and access arrangements.

www.patoss-dyslexia.org.

Disabled Students Allowances (DSA)

"In order to access support at Higher Education, a student will need to show an assessment report post 16 years from either a Psychologist registered with the Health Care Practitioner Council HCPC, or a specialist dyslexia teacher with an SpLD Diploma in Further/Higher Education and an assessment Practising Certificate.

Dyslexic students in Higher Education, who have been assessed as dyslexic, can apply to their funder (e.g. Student finance England, NHS Student Grants Unit, Open University) for a DSA. Part time students and post-graduate students are now eligible for this allowance.

The DSA is available for courses lasting at least 1 year at Higher Education registered with Student Finance England where the student is eligible for Student Finance. If you are not eligible for Student Finance, you cannot apply for the DSA. However, your university should provide appropriate support.

HNC (1-year courses).

HND (2-year courses).

Foundation Degrees (2-year courses).

Certificate of Higher Education.

Degrees, Masters and PhDs.

Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

Initial Teacher Training.

Further Training of Youth & Community Workers.

Students at Higher Education with dyslexic difficulties can apply for the Disabled Students Allowance. The application should be supported by a diagnostic assessment report post 16 years from either an Educational Psychologist with a Health Professional Council (HPC) Practising Certificate, or a specialist dyslexia teacher with a Practising Certificate".

Ref: British Dyslexia Association Website

For further information see: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/about-dyslexia/schools-colleges-and-universities/help-for-higher-education-students-.html

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At Work

Where a new employee discloses dyslexic difficulties, a workplace assessment should be undertaken early on and reasonable adjustments implemented.

Part of the Jobcentre Plus organisation, Access to Work offer workplace assessments and some funding for the implementation of Reasonable Adjustments. For dyslexic employees requiring a support worker, this would be 100% funded by Access to Work. Funding for equipment is now very restricted.

An employer is required to fund the cost of implementing reasonable adjustments up to a certain limit depending on the size of the organisation, and 20% of costs above this, but for small businesses and the self-employed, the recommended support is fully funded. There is no cost for the workplace assessment. Strategy training for dyslexic employees is also provided at no cost. This is a frequent recommendation from workplace assessments.

If a new employee applies to Access to Work for a workplace assessment in the first six weeks of starting a new job, there is no cost to the employer for either the workplace assessment or the implementation of reasonable adjustments."

Ref: British Dyslexia Association Website

For further information see:

www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/about-dyslexia/adults-and-business/dyslexia-support-in-the-workplace.html

Access to Work

Access to Work is aimed at providing financial assistance for employers of anyone with a disability, and can help you if a health problem or disability affects the way an individual performs their job. It gives advice and support with extra costs, which may arise because of their needs. The application is made by the individual and not their employer, although the financial help is paid to the employer. Each region has its own contact centre, in your case it is based in Cardiff

Access to Work can be contacted after the first six weeks, but there may be a cost for the assessment and implementation of any reasonable adjustments.

For Coventry, Warwickshire, the West Midlands and East Midlands contact:

Tel: 02920 423 291

See: www.gov.uk/access-to-work

The amount of funding is determined by size of company. (further information available from the Government website - www.direct.gov.uk) The next stage would be that an Access to Work Adviser is appointed to that person and their employer and then an assessment would be carried out at work to determine the reasonable adjustments that would be required to be made to assist the individual to effectively carry out their job.

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