

How do you test for dyslexia?

Screening for Children

This is typically the initial process in identifying whether or not a child may have dyslexia. The screening procedure will look for possible indicators of the condition and estimates whether an individual is 'at risk' of having dyslexia. Not only will the screening provide useful insight into areas of difficulty but it may also include a recommendation as to whether or not a more formal diagnostic assessment should follow up the screening.

Assessments for children

A **full diagnostic assessment** carried out by a highly qualified professional is required to confirm the presence of dyslexia or any other associated specific learning difficulty in a child aged 7 and upwards.

The full assessment explores a range of academic skills and cognitive processing abilities. The resulting report provides information on the nature and severity of any difficulties and makes a range of well-informed recommendations to support the child.

The diagnostic report constitutes formal evidence of dyslexia.

It is at the discretion of the specialist assessor, the possible co-occurrence of associated specific learning difficulties such as **dyscalculia, Dyspraxia/ DCD** (Developmental Coordination Disorder) or **Visual Stress** may also be briefly explored during the diagnostic assessment.

Exams Access Arrangements

Where it is age-appropriate, the report will also suggest possible additional arrangements in examinations. It should be noted however that the final decision on whether or not to adopt such recommendations will rest with the school.

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on Awarding Bodies to make "reasonable adjustments" for those who fall with the legislative provisions. Access Arrangements

allow examinations candidates and students with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to participate in the examination or test without changing the demands of the examinations by allowing adjustments to be made to pre-examination and/or examination arrangements based on evidence of the specific needs and normal way of working of the candidate. It could, for example, involve the provision of readers, scribes, Braille question papers or even additional time to sit the examination.

Disabled Students' Allowance

Where appropriate, full diagnostic reports for students aged 16 years and above can also provide evidence and recommendations when preparing to apply for university or to Student Finance England for the disabled students' allowance (DSA).

As a higher education student living in England, an application can be made for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if they have a disability, including a:

- long-term health condition
- mental health condition
- specific learning difficulty, eg dyslexia

A student must meet the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. The support received depends upon individual needs and not on income.

A disabled students' allowance (DSA) can help towards the cost of:

- specialist equipment, eg a computer
- non-medical helpers
- extra travel because of disability
- other disability-related costs of studying