

Educational Psychology Service and Ladywood Outreach Service

Date: May 2020

Parents supporting children and young people with literacy difficulties

Introduction

This information sheet aims to provide ideas about how parents can support children and young people with literacy difficulties at home, helping them to learn and produce answers in different ways.

Not all children with literacy difficulties will need to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT), but we have provided links and suggestions here.

Some Apps are free (please see our link below), but some require subscription. It may be useful to contact your school's SENCo in the first instance to ask what is available via school.

Suggestion for the week

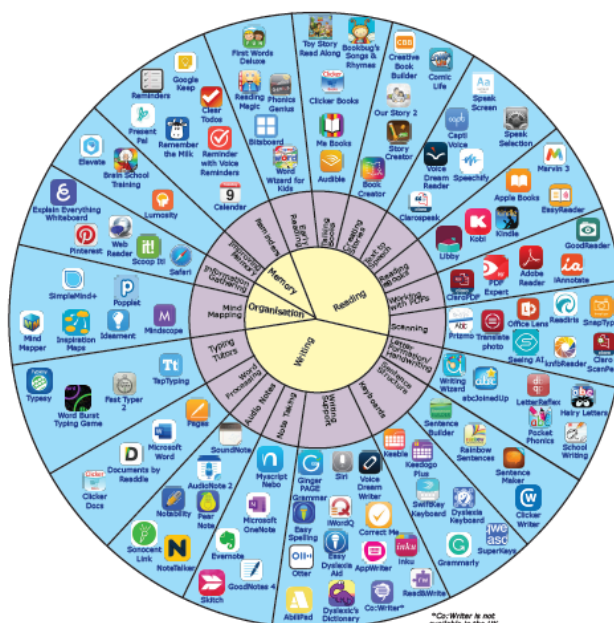
Try teaching/learning a topic in a multi-sensory way e.g.

- make a mind map
- draw it
- act it
- dance it
- make a song
- make a model
- make an audio or video recording
- make a spoken quiz
- make a documentary
- make a boardgame
- throw bean bags onto correct answers

Apps for literacy difficulties

There is a wide range of apps available to help support and engage learners with literacy difficulties, many focusing on multi-sensory teaching principles. The use of ICT to support literacy difficulties can be a fun and engaging way to boost key skills. Below is a comprehensive list of suggested apps that may be of use, many apps work on particular skills such as reading or spelling so try to ensure the most appropriate apps are chosen for the particular area of weakness. Please click the image below to download a larger and interactive copy of the image.

iPad Apps for Learners with Dyslexia/ Reading and Writing Difficulties



from www.callscotland.org.uk

Assistive technology for literacy difficulties

Assistive technology has increasingly become a crucial aid in helping remove barriers to learning and encourage independence. Assistive technology can be hardware or software based and aims to accommodate difficulties with literacy and allow the user to show their true understanding and ability. Some examples of popular assistive technologies are outlined below: (further suggestions are available at <https://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets/ict-to-support-learners-with-dyslexia/>):

Reading pens are pocket-sized devices that allow the user to scan individual words or whole sentences. The pen then reads the text out loud.



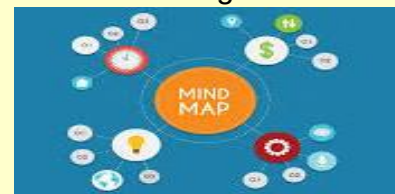
Speech activated software allows the user to translate text to speech or dictate their own speech into text. Lots of examples are available to suit all technology platforms



Touch typing software teaches the user fast and fluent typing skills, which is ideal for those with persistent writing difficulties



Mind mapping tools allow the user to generate lots of ideas and visually structure information in their preferred learning style. They can be useful for presenting information, organising ideas and note taking



Helping early readers with reading and spelling
(Keep activities short. Focus on what the learner did well.)

- I-Spy games
- card games matching words
- card games matching beginning or end sounds in words
- spot the difference – present similar words on cards with simple differences to spot
- rhyme games – *What rhymes with....?*
- *Spoonerisms* – take two words and swap the initial sounds e.g. *red top; ted rop*; try with more complicated initial sounds e.g. *green stick; steen grick*; and perhaps with ending sounds too

- to improve spelling
<http://spellingframe.co.uk>,
www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zt62mnb,
<https://www.education.com/resources/ela/>
- to help develop understanding of letter sounds
<https://www.ateachableteacher.com/online-phonemic-awareness-games/>
- Echo reading
<https://spedellreadingstrategies.weebly.com/echo-reading.html>
- shared reading with an adult, each day, discussing what is happening in the story
- audiobooks from an online library, taking the emphasis off their reading

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Thanks to Richard Skelton and other Educational Psychologist colleagues for their help in collating ideas

Many people with literacy difficulties (and, indeed, most of us) benefit from strategies to improve our working memory. Please see our future information sheets.



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