

My child has DYS-WHAT? Key Facts about Dyspraxia

- Dyspraxia is not just a label for ‘clumsy children’. It is a lifelong condition which is formally recognised internationally by organisations such as the World Health Organisation.
- Dyspraxia is not dyslexia - other parents may assume you’re mispronouncing dyslexia. You will get used to explaining that dyspraxia is a fairly common disorder affecting fine and/or gross motor coordination in children and adults as well as speech in some cases.
- You may find that speech dyspraxia might also be called *verbal/oral/articulatory* dyspraxia. These terms are often used interchangeably but some specialists make subtle distinctions between them.

What helps?

- As with all speech difficulties, 1:1 speech and language therapy (SLT) is considered to be the most effective form of help for children with dyspraxia.
- If your child’s dyspraxia is severely pronounced, s/he is likely to need SLT at least weekly, with daily reinforcement and support from you at home
- Specialists agree that many children with verbal/oral dyspraxia benefit from a placement in a speech and language unit to ensure they can thrive in a supportive educational environment.
- To access weekly SLT, an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan is usually needed

Will my child always be dyspraxic? In one way or another, yes. Dyspraxia is a lifelong condition. However with the right kind of support, your child has every chance of improving their speech dyspraxia. It is estimated that while as many as 3% of adults in the UK have a form of dyspraxia, most go undiagnosed. But it doesn’t have to be a barrier to living a successful and happy life – just ask Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, supermodel Cara Delavigne or even Richard Branson.

The important thing to remember is that *your child is more than their diagnosis or condition* – they are an individual who deserves every opportunity to live life to the fullest!

Visit www.afasic.org.uk or join one of our Facebook groups (search “Afasic”) to find out more about verbal dyspraxia and other speech and language disorders.

