



Newsletter 10 January 2021

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British Dyslexia Association Books

The BDA has many books on dyslexia on sale on their website

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/shop/books>. Subject teachers might find the following ones useful.

- Dyslexia, languages and Multilingualism Prof J. Everatt Printed £5 Digital £6.
 - Music, other Performing Arts and Dyslexia, Editor Sally Daunt Printed £5 Digital £6.
 - Maths Learning Difficulties, Dyslexia, and Dyscalculia Steve Chinn, £14.99 printed.
 - Dyslexia Friendly Schools Good Practice Guide 2nd Ed Printed £9.99 Digital £15.00.

[British Dyslexia Association Dyscalculia courses](#)

The BDA are offering several courses on Dyscalculia at this link

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/search?q=dyscalculia>

Dyslex.ie

Dyslex.ie www.dyslex.ie has been set up by DCU students in 2020 to allow people to customise web pages they view to suit them best. Firstly, users complete an online questionnaire which identifies the exact modifications that will maximise the user experience. With this data, the software tailors the visual and textual formatting of any web page for every single user. Dyslex.ie customise the background colour, line-spacing, font style and size to enhance users' reading experience. It also offers syllable-splitting, word to image functionality and paragraph delineation.

Dyslexia Scotland Leaflets for subject teachers.

In many of the resources I have given out at courses and in the Factsheets on Dyslexia at Second Level (downloadable at www.dyslexiacourses.ie) I referenced and gave the link to very useful leaflets from Dyslexia Scotland for teachers in many specific subject areas.

<https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/>. They are now **only** available to buy.

Gaeoideachas: Webinar and booklet for parents of students in Irish Medium Schools

Gaeoideachas in collaboration with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland published a booklet giving advice to the parents of students with dyslexia in Irish medium schools in June 2020. They held a webinar when the booklet was published. The webinar and a free download of the booklet are available at <https://gaeoideachas.ie/launch-of-new-dyslexia-booklet/>

Maths Explained by Steve Chinn <https://www.mathsexplained.co.uk/>

Maths Explained are a series of short video tutorials that help with dyscalculia and mathematical learning difficulties. They explain maths from the beginning and develop an understanding and confidence in using numbers and maths. They are underpinned by Steve Chinn's research and other experts from around the world. The videos use simple and clear visual images, often animated, to illustrate concepts. They have a developmental structure and are interlinked so that understanding supports memory. This is not about a dependence on rote learning. Students learn at their own pace. The videos are not age related. They can be used at any age. The complete set of videos is £70.

MyStudyBar

MyStudyBar is a suite of portable Windows freeware applications assembled into one package to support learners with literacy difficulties. It can be run from a USB pendrive or from your desktop. MyStudyBar is designed to support the complete study cycle from planning and structuring thoughts and ideas to support with reading and writing. It is designed to run on PCs. Here is a link which explains it in more detail. <https://www.callscotland.org.uk/mystudybar/> It helps learners to

- Organise and plan their thoughts and ideas
- Use colour overlays to aid concentration and overcome visual stress
- Listen to digital content read aloud using text-to-speech
- Improve typing skills.

Psychological Assessment: the contribution it makes

In recent years the psychological assessment has become less relevant when applying for supports such as accommodations in exams or language exemptions. However I believe it still has a key role in helping students, parents and teachers understand the difficulties experienced by students and plan strategies/supports to help. The Dyslexia Association of Ireland in November 2020 says

'Dyslexia affects at least one in ten people in Ireland. However, many people struggle to access dyslexia assessment as it can be expensive and the school system has long waiting lists. While a formal diagnosis of dyslexia may not be required to access certain supports, it is often very empowering emotionally, giving validity to the individuals lived experience, supporting understanding of their profile and needs, and enabling them to connect with others. Dyslexia identification is not about labelling a child, but rather re-labelling a child – showing them that they are not stupid or lazy or whatever horrid words they have heard or thought themselves, but rather that their brain works in a different way, that they have ability and their own unique profile of strengths and challenges'.

TTRS Touchtype, read and Spell www.readspell.com

TTRS is a multisensory programme that teaches touch typing, reading and spelling. The contest is based on the 'Alpha to Omega' phonic system. Students learn to type but they also benefit from

improved spelling ability and a boost in reading fluency thanks to an underlying phonics program that informs core content.

It can be used in class or at home which could be helpful during Covid. Teachers can monitor progress and also see which words and spelling patterns students are struggling with. TTRS is self-paced and can be customized to meet the needs of every learners from those on the autistic spectrum to learners with visual or hearing impairment and students who struggle with dyslexia, dyspraxia or attention based difficulties.

The TuDOrs Project

The Project is targeting to **foreign language teachers** and training **providers**. Their 1st Newsletter has just been published at <https://tudors.academy/1st-newsletter/>

The Project is aiming to improve the knowledge and skills of foreign language teachers, to enhance how they teach people with learning disabilities, by using innovative methods and practices.

An important aspect of the project is to strengthen soft and transversal skills of teachers, for the inclusion of disabled learners in educational activities.

The objectives of the project are to:

- Increase the awareness of foreign language teachers, in teaching people with learning disabilities;
- Upgrade the training skills and competences of foreign language teachers;
- Promote inclusive education.

UrAbility: Free Guide to Assistive Technology.

UrAbility www.urability.com offers a free guide to Assistive Technology for Learning. It covers the built-in accessibility features of the iPad and Windows 10 plus apps to help the child with reading, writing, note-taking, maths, storytelling, time management and more.