



Key information about dyslexia screening

Introduction

You may have noticed that your child is finding some aspects of learning more challenging than expected, or that they are working harder than their peers to keep up. As a parent, it's natural to have questions – and often worries – about what might be behind these difficulties and how best you can support your child.

If dyslexia has been mentioned, or you're beginning to wonder whether it could be a factor, understanding the different assessment options can be really helpful.

This information guide explains the difference between dyslexia screening and a full diagnostic assessment, and why screening can be a positive and reassuring first step for many families.

What is dyslexia screening?

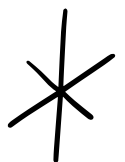


“The screening process is the vital first step in the process of identifying and supporting individuals who are experiencing difficulties in reading, writing and spelling”
Dyslexia Academy

In response to an initial concern, dyslexia screening can be carried out as a way of observing how your child tackles and copes with a range of literacy and learning tasks.

The screening process typically involves:

- tests
- questionnaires
- discussions
- observations
- activities



By carefully analysing any errors, it is possible to spot tendencies, patterns and trends which can inform our understanding of your child's specific difficulties.

Screening or diagnostic assessment: what's the difference?

A screening cannot determine whether the difficulties your child is experiencing are definitely due to dyslexia. This is a key difference between screening and a diagnostic assessment. A formal diagnostic assessment is carried out by a suitably qualified Level 7 dyslexia assessor or an educational psychologist, who can confirm or rule out a diagnosis of dyslexia.

The process of a diagnostic assessment has some similarities to screening, but diagnostic assessments use standardised tests. This allows the assessor to compare your child's performance with appropriate peer groups and provides standardised scores as part of the assessment.

Following either screening or a diagnostic assessment, you will receive a report explaining the findings and providing recommendations for appropriate support.

A diagnosis of dyslexia is lifelong. A formal diagnostic assessment report can also provide important evidence of a person's needs as they progress through education and into the workplace.

Screening

Explores patterns of strengths and difficulties

Can indicate characteristics associated with dyslexia

Helps identify appropriate support

Does **not** provide a diagnosis

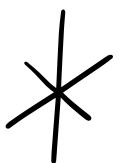
Diagnostic assessment

Uses standardised assessment

Carried out by a suitably qualified Level 7 dyslexia assessor or educational psychologist

Can confirm or rule out dyslexia

Provides a formal diagnostic report



Why can dyslexia screening be helpful?

A clearer understanding

Screening can help make sense of why some aspects of literacy and learning may be proving difficult.

Practical recommendations

The screening report provides recommendations for strategies and support that may be helpful at home and in the child's learning environment.

Useful information to share

The report gives parents clear information that can be shared with school, tutors or other professionals supporting the child.

A way forward

Screening can help families decide what to do next, whether that means putting additional support in place, monitoring particular areas or considering further assessment.

For many families, screening provides useful information and a clearer direction for supporting their child moving forward.



Claire Wilson
CW Educational Services
07814 043623
cweducationalservices.com