



Touch-type
Read & Spell

Unlocking reading success for children with dyslexia: 10 key strategies



Introduction

Strong literacy skills are essential for any child's development, shaping their future success in various aspects of life. This is why as a parent, guardian, or teacher, it's natural to want to support a child's reading journey and provide them with the resources they need to overcome learning difficulties and build confidence from an early age.

Especially when faced with reading and writing challenges, such as dyslexia, addressing a child's needs promptly is crucial. By doing so, you can empower children to optimise their education pathway, enhance their communication skills, and promote a more positive relationship with learning.



Dyslexia as a barrier to achievement: Debunking the myth



While some may view dyslexia as a learning barrier, it can actually be a gateway to a much more agile way of learning. With the right resources and timely support, you can uncover strengths that are often overlooked by traditional teaching methods.

This can include (but is not limited to!):

- ✓ Strong visual thinking and problem-solving abilities
- ✓ Creative and 'out-of-the-box' thinking
- ✓ Spatial reasoning and pattern recognition
- ✓ Critical thinking and analytical abilities

There really is no limit to how far a child can go in life with the right strategies and techniques to support them along the way — something this eBook aims to help with!

What to expect from this eBook?

To kick-start the process of helping a child with dyslexia thrive, we've compiled 10 key strategies that you can leverage throughout their literacy journey.



Unlocking reading success for children with dyslexia: 10 key strategies



In this concise eBook, we'll be discussing:

- ✓ Your first steps in understanding a child's reading challenges
- ✓ Your role in developing their pre-literacy skills
- ✓ 10 key strategies for helping a child with dyslexia overcome reading challenges
- ✓ Your next steps in providing effective support as a parent, guardian, or teacher

Together, we can navigate literacy challenges and empower the child in your life to reach their full potential!



Understanding a child's reading challenges

By gaining a deeper understanding of the specific reading challenges a child may be experiencing, you'll be better equipped to adapt your approach to their learning and provide the support they need, as they need it.



To help clarify where a child might be struggling in terms of early reading skills, we suggest evaluating their performance in three core areas:

- ✓ Pre-literacy skills — such as oral language and phonemic awareness
- ✓ Decoding abilities — their capacity to turn a written word into the correct spoken word
- ✓ Comprehension — how well they understand the meaning and context of the text they read

By evaluating a child's reading ability in the context of these three areas, you'll be better positioned to develop targeted strategies that address their unique needs and help them take their next steps more confidently.

Your role in developing a child's pre-literacy skills

- ✓ Build confidence and overcome reading/learning insecurities
- ✓ Widen their vocabulary and strengthen their communication skills
- ✓ Promote phonemic awareness

As a parent, guardian, or teacher, you play a key role in nurturing a child's reading abilities.

By actively engaging in reading exercises, fostering a love for new information, and creating a nurturing environment, you can ignite a child's passion for learning and give them the tools they need to:

- ✓ Enhance listening skills and encourage meaningful conversations
- ✓ Cultivate curiosity for language and different types of texts
- ✓ Boost general social skills

Empowering strategies for improving a child's reading skills

When it comes to children with dyslexia, there's a wide range of practical strategies that can make a significant impact on their reading and writing abilities.

To guide you on just some of these strategies, we've put together a selection of valuable insights and techniques to start with.

Our carefully curated strategies, backed by leading industry experts and extensive research, can be personalised to cater to a child's specific challenges and strengths — ensuring a truly individualised learning experience.

Ready to embark on this journey together?



Placing a focus on phonics

01

By emphasising phonics instruction (a teaching approach that focuses on the relationship between sounds and letters), you can provide the essential skills a child needs to decode words, improve reading fluency, and enhance their overall reading comprehension.



Some techniques to try and include:

- ✓ Teaching letter-sound associations
- ✓ Practising blending and segmenting sounds
- ✓ Using phonics-focused reading materials
- ✓ Playing phonics games for sound manipulation

Engaging the senses

02

Introducing a multi-sensory teaching approach can instantly enhance a child's engagement by catering to their unique needs with interactive and 'hands-on' activities.

Some techniques to try include:

- ✓ Using visual aids
- ✓ Using auditory tools
- ✓ Using kinaesthetic activities to make learning more fun and 'active'
- ✓ Using auditory tools



Going at their pace

03

Some children require additional time to process information. This is why patience is key. By giving a child the time and space they need to succeed, you'll provide a supportive environment for their learning journey.



To avoid a child becoming overwhelmed or stressed during reading:

- ✓ Be empathetic and understand their frustrations
- ✓ Encourage them to ask questions and seek help when needed
- ✓ Create a positive and non-judgemental atmosphere
- ✓ Engage in activities that boost their self-confidence and self-expression
- ✓ Involve them in setting their learning goals and celebrate their progress
- ✓ Be flexible and adaptable to their unique learning pace

Creating a distraction-free environment

04

For children experiencing any learning-based challenges, creating an environment they can focus in is essential.

To create a space that nurtures a child's ability to focus and improve their reading skills, we suggest:

- ✓ Minimising distractions during reading activities
- ✓ Establishing a quiet and dedicated reading area
- ✓ Ensuring proper lighting for comfortable reading conditions
- ✓ Removing electronic devices during reading time
- ✓ Implementing a structured routine for reading sessions
- ✓ Providing ergonomic seating for optimal focus and comfort



Creatively expanding their vocabulary

05

The wider a child's word bank, the easier it will be for them to identify, understand, and express themselves effectively with a diverse range of words.



This is why it's important to:

- ✓ **Broaden their horizons:** Encourage the exploration of new subjects for diverse ideas, perspectives, and vocabulary
- ✓ **Discuss current events:** Engage in conversations about local and global news to introduce relevant vocabulary
- ✓ **Foster curiosity:** Cultivate a child's natural inquisitiveness to engage with various topics and learn associated words
- ✓ **Use technology:** Utilise educational apps and multimedia resources to enhance understanding and vocabulary

Allocating time for repeat reading

06

**Sometimes, practice really can make perfect!
By embracing the power of repetition, you can
significantly improve a child's:**

- ✓ Fluency
- ✓ Comprehension
- ✓ Confidence in their reading abilities

However, it's also important to ensure that a child doesn't become reliant on just one selection of books or topics. Repeat reading can be beneficial, but as time goes on, it's important to balance this strategy with new materials and more diverse genres.



Fostering an enjoyment of learning

07

Reading should be an enjoyable experience for every child. This is why it's essential to create a stress-free environment during reading sessions and let the fun of reading take over!

To do this:

- ✓ Encourage reading for pleasure with book choices they enjoy
- ✓ Include fun activities like storytelling, role-playing, or reading aloud
- ✓ Create a cosy reading nook for relaxation
- ✓ Minimise emphasis on errors during reading sessions
- ✓ Praise efforts and progress to boost confidence



Bonus tip: While general behavioural guidelines can be set during reading time, it's vital not to make this a focus. Children engage better with learning when there's less focus on what they can't do and more on what they can do!

Seeking support from professionals

08

Professional support and advice can sometimes be the missing piece of the puzzle in helping children overcome reading challenges and reach their full potential.

As a parent, guardian, or teacher, just some of the professionals you can seek advice from include:

- ✓ Speech and Language Therapists
- ✓ Educational Psychologists
- ✓ Dyslexia Specialists
- ✓ Reading Specialists
- ✓ Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinators (SENDCo)



Nurturing a growth mindset

09

Learning difficulties do not define a child's intelligence, which is why it's important to celebrate their efforts and reward success whenever possible — no matter how small!



Our main tips for encouraging a growth mindset include:

- ✓ Never comparing children to others and instead, focusing on their individual progress
- ✓ Celebrating efforts and small successes regularly
- ✓ Providing constructive, but not overly critical, feedback to encourage growth

Leveraging assistive technology

10

In today's fast-paced digital society, there are more ways to learn than ever before!

Using assistive technology tools and innovative software specifically designed to support dyslexic

learners, you can help children with dyslexia enhance their reading experience and step outside the boundaries of traditional learning.

When it comes to assistive technology, our advice is to:

- ✓ Explore dyslexia-specific assistive technology tools and software
- ✓ Opt for resources that use dyslexia-friendly fonts and formatting to improve readability
- ✓ Keep up-to-date on new technological advancements and resources
- ✓ Utilise educational apps and games designed for dyslexic learners



Section 3

Empowering children for lifelong reading success

Supporting a child with dyslexia on their journey to reading success requires a multifaceted approach.

By engaging with the insights discussed in this eBook and implementing the suggested strategies, you can create a supportive and more rewarding environment for their learning journey.

Above all, it's important to remember that children with dyslexia are not alone, and as the parent, guardian, or teacher supporting them — neither are you. Experts in neurodivergent education are working tirelessly to help dyslexic learners overcome the challenges they face and break down the barriers of traditional teaching methods.

For example, those with dyslexia can access the Touch-type, Read and Spell (TTRS) course. A multi-sensory, structured online course, TTRS teaches touch-typing to help children and adults improve their reading and spelling skills at their own pace. Used by The Leicestershire Dyslexia Association for many years, the TTRS course can unlock a child's reading potential and set them on the right path for lifelong learning.



Learn more about TTRS with our free trial

[Start free trial](#)

