

# Newsletter

Newsletter of The Dyslexia Association [www.dyslexia.org.au](http://www.dyslexia.org.au) Frank Passmore, Secretary Contact email: [contact@dyslexia.org.au](mailto:contact@dyslexia.org.au) phone: 0413 117 323 March 2022

## ‘Naughty’ at school, but now teaches languages to autistic and dyslexic students

Frank Johnston  
 from Yahoo Staff Writer, January 18, 2022.

Chloe Mairead struggled to pay attention in school, was seen as naughty and was told off for fiddling in class.

“...moving my hands helped me focus my ears to listen to what was going on. Now I know more about my condition, I use it to my advantage. I’ll teach with a PopSockets in my hands, rolling the marble between my fingers, as I know it aids my concentration.”

Diagnosed with autism and ADHD, Chloe sees her conditions as a superpower, not a disadvantage and has used being ‘picked on’ at school as a springboard to success.

**Chloe is fluent in 9 languages**

Chloe is now fluent in 9 languages and teaches languages to students with similar conditions.



*Chloe-Mairead studying in Florence, Italy in 2019 (Collect/PA Real Life).*

Chloe’s experience led her to assist other children who struggled to cope with main-stream education and she started her own language tuition school, **CMD Tutoring**, where she has taught over 200 students, from school age to retired, with conditions from autism to dyslexia.

**Now I see that languages are one of my autistic fixations.**

“I know how to work with my students, because I have the same challenges.

“I make them laugh, I make the work fun and I try to pass on my passion.

Learning difficulties are not a disadvantage, they’re a superpower.”

**It is with the neurodiverse who have a variation in the brain regarding sociability, learning, attention, mood, that Chloe’s passion truly lies.**

Chloe, of Winsford, Cheshire, teaches six days a week and has won several awards including an ‘inspirational woman’ award for contributions to education.

See more at...  
<https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/woman-with-autism-speaks-nine-languages-and-is-now-an-award-winning-teacher-144908868.html> 📺

### ***A doorway to the law makers ?***

The Dyslexia Association representatives ([www.dyslexia.org.au](http://www.dyslexia.org.au)) recently met with WA Shadow Education Minister Peter Rundle, at the invitation of the WA state Opposition, for a 30 minute chat regarding Dyslexia Awareness Month and what changes could be implemented to bring about better conditions to assist people affected by dyslexia.

Shadow Minister Rundle generously extended the meeting to nearly an hour while President Annette Johnston and committee member Michael Berry gave explicit descriptions regarding the condition of dyslexia and the possibilities of successful treatment.

An important input also involved the broadening of opportunities for people seeking assistance to be able, through an Education Department or Government gateway for resources and treatment variations, to access a much more diverse range of options rather than the narrow selection presently available.

Mr Rundle received the information with a positive response and was left with information to consider what questions of relevance he may be able to put to the government to encourage enhanced conditions within the state’s education system for families experiencing difficulties in managing dyslexia. TBC... ?

**Dyslexia: not a disability, but a visual-spatial thinking style which succeeds with a visual-spatial teaching style.**

# Some things about dyslexia...



## 7 Common *Myths* about Dyslexia

From Amanda Morin

### Reading and writing letters backwards is the main sign of dyslexia.

Some kids with dyslexia write letters backwards **and some don't**. So, letter reversal isn't necessarily a sign that your child has dyslexia. In fact, young children commonly reverse letters. It's not unusual to see them confuse *b* and *d* or write *p* instead of *q*. If your child is still doing so by the end of year one, however, it may signal the need for an evaluation.

### Dyslexia doesn't show up until primary school.

Signs of dyslexia can **show up in preschool, or even earlier**. That's because dyslexia can affect language skills that are essential skills for reading. Some signs that a preschooler may be at risk for dyslexia include difficulty rhyming and being a "late talker."

### Kids with dyslexia just need to try harder to read.

Research shows that **the brain functions differently in kids with dyslexia**. It also shows that reading can actually change the brain over time. But effort has nothing to do with it. It's the type of instruction that makes a difference, not how hard kids try. With good instruction and practice, kids with dyslexia can make lasting gains in reading.

There are a number of reading programs designed for struggling readers. Many use what's called a multisensory approach. This type of instruction uses sight, sound, and touch as pathways to learning.

### Dyslexia goes away once kids learn to read.

Intervention makes a big difference in **helping kids with dyslexia learn to read**. But being able to read doesn't mean they're "cured." Dyslexia is a lifelong learning difference that can affect more than just basic reading skills.

On top of making it hard to decode, dyslexia can make it difficult to read fluently. It can also impact how well kids comprehend what they've read. Kids with dyslexia may also continue to struggle with spelling and writing even once they've learned to read.

### Dyslexia is a vision problem.

**Vision problems don't cause dyslexia**. Kids with dyslexia are no more likely to have eye and vision problems than other kids. It's true that some may have problems with visual perception, or **visual processing**. That means the brain has trouble recognising details in images and processing what the eyes are seeing. Those challenges can make reading difficult. But they're not a part of dyslexia.

### Kids who don't speak English can't have dyslexia.

**Dyslexia exists all over the world and in all languages**. But it often takes longer to pick up on reading issues in kids who are bilingual than in their peers. That may be due to teachers and parents thinking these kids are struggling because they're learning a new language.

However, if kids have trouble reading in their first language and their second language, it's a good indication that they need to be evaluated.

### Dyslexia is caused by not reading enough at home.

Reading at home and being exposed to reading is important for all kids. But dyslexia doesn't happen because of a lack of exposure. It's a neurological condition. People who don't know your family may wrongly assume you're not doing enough.



## 10 Things Every Child With Dyslexia Wants You To Know

1. I am not stupid or lazy. I need time to get things done.
2. I may be dyslexic but I can still shine in lots of ways.
3. It might take me a long time to 'get it' but when I 'get it' it sticks!
4. When you break things down into smaller steps I find it really, really helpful.
5. Sometimes I just need to work in a different way to the others in class to get the job done.
6. I try my best but do get frustrated. I need you to be patient with me.
7. My dyslexia does not only affect my literacy skills.
8. I find visual reminders helpful as I sometimes find remembering everything a bit tricky..
9. I often like to work in a quiet room as I can find noises distracting.
10. My dyslexia is just one part of my character. It does not define who I am or want to be.

