

Newsletter

Newsletter of The Dyslexia Association www.dyslexia.org.au Frank Passmore, Secretary Contact email: contact@dyslexia.org.au phone: 0413 117 323 December 2021

Dyscalculia; it's the maths form of dyslexia

Frank Johnston

Partly from an article by Gary Nunn published on ABC News January 3, 2022.

While dyslexia is more readily diagnosed and widely recognised educationally, it's close relative is much less part of any discussion on processing problems in the classroom.

Similarly to dyslexia, dyscalculia is associated with concepts of disability, being a bit 'dim', not being smart, and dealing with the struggle to not consider yourself to be stupid.

As with dyslexia, nothing could be further from the truth.

Like dyslexics, people with dyscalculia often demonstrate exceptional abilities in unrelated areas.



Chris Long has dyscalculia - it causes him to have difficulty processing the simplest of mathematical concepts

Photo from the ABC News

Author Paul Moorcraft (he has written around 50 books) hid his dyscalculia until he was 50.

Chris Long, from Queensland, struggled to assign values to the easiest of numbers such as single digits .

It wasn't until he was at university studying nursing his difficulties were noticed by a tutor who referred him to someone who could diagnose his problem.

Once dyscalculia was recognised Chris could take steps to help resolve the difficulties, and be provided with allowances and support.

With strategies which suit Chris's way of thinking, the doorway to success can open.

A very effective program to resolve the difficulties of dyscalculia and clearly establish an understanding of essential maths concepts is available and can be accessed by contacting the providers of this newsletter.

Dyscalculia can display problems with time, analogue clock faces, simple maths processes, interpreting graphs or timetables.

In any average classroom, two or 3 students may have dyscalculia

Like dyslexia, dyscalculia can be resolved through a program which establishes clear understanding of the essential maths concepts

Want to diagnose dyslexia?

It may not be a **formal** diagnosis (which must be done by an educational psychologist) but is a simple DIY analysis which takes a few minutes and can give a very strong indication of the likelihood of dyslexia.

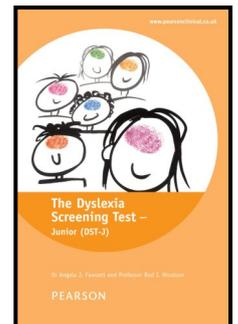
Have a look at this link: - (copy and paste)

<https://www.dyslexia.com/about-dyslexia/signs-of-dyslexia/test-for-dyslexia-37-signs/>

Or, the **Pearson Dyslexia Screening Test** is a readily available standardised test which can be used by teachers to give a very accurate indication of the possibility of dyslexia.

Armed with this evidence you would be in the position of taking steps towards resolving the identified problem.

For more information, call the number at the top of this page.



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

More celebration of dyslexia...

A story from the Cat Protection Society of Victoria

Continuing on from the celebration of dyslexics in the last newsletter, I've added another, once again showing how people with the **Gift** that is dyslexia can use their visual - spatial skills to reach special goals.

Adelaide 'won the junior category of the Cat Protection Society of Victoria's **'Furry Tales Children's Story Competition'**, selected from over 268 entries for her heart-warming story about a cat called Coco entitled 'Cat Story'.

Eleven year old Adelaide has, according to her mum, never found writing easy and winning the competition means a lot to the family.

Adelaide wrote the story from the cat, Coco's, viewpoint.

Coco lives in the neighbourhood and faces many challenges as she moves from street cat, to shelter cat and finally as the companion of a young woman.

Adelaide has won a \$150 Ultimate Kids Gift



Adelaide Hogan, 11, won a Victorian story writing competition

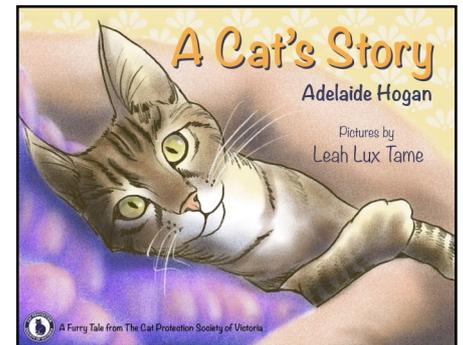
Card, a certificate, and a private shelter tour with plenty of time for cat and kitten cuddling with three friends.

Adelaide's book is currently being professionally illustrated by Leah Lux, Artist and Photographer, and will be published and available for purchase via the Society's retail and online stores in early 2022.

All proceeds from the sale will go towards continuing to provide the highest levels of

care and rehoming of cats and kittens in need and incorporated into The Cat Protection Societies Primary School Education program that will launch in 2022.

Annie Bell, primary school teacher and judge of the Junior Category says of Adelaide's story "I found this story particularly moving which is a testament to how well it is written. It reinforces the importance of cat adoption so there are less vulnerable cats roaming the streets. It also reminds the reader of the love, companionship, and utter joy that cats can provide for us."



Well worth quoting

From Holly Jean Brooker in the NZ Herald, June 10 2021.

Richard Branson speaks on dyslexia...

"...dyslexia is a superpower that needs to be embraced and supported in schools.

"... it is still often treated as a disability and a distinct disadvantage. It shouldn't be that way. I believe in the game-changing power of dyslexic thinking.

"Once I was freed from old fashioned schooling practices and preconceptions about how things should be done, my mind opened up.

"Out in the real world, I feel my dyslexia has been a massive advantage: it has helped me to think creatively, to see the big picture where others don't and to view challenges as opportunities.

"My dyslexia has shaped Virgin right from the very beginning.

"The heightened sense of imagination that comes with being dyslexic has been key to many of our successes (as a company).



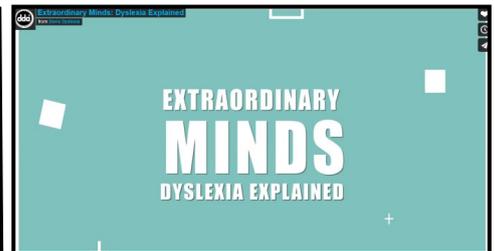
Sir Richard Branson considers his dyslexic experience

"It helped me think big but keep our messages simple.

"The business world often gets caught up in facts and figures; and while the details and data are important, the ability to dream, conceptualise and innovate is what sets the successful and the unsuccessful apart.

"I've also built a talented team of people around me and learned quickly to delegate the things that I found more difficult.

"One in five children are dyslexic and have exactly the thinking skills needed for the future of work."



A new valuable resource for understanding dyslexia

This video clearly explains dyslexia in a sensitive and positive manner.

It was produced by Australian and New Zealand experts in dyslexia correction.

It has also been produced with subtitles in Polish, Greek, Hindi, Italian, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

It makes enlightening viewing for dyslexics and those interested in understanding the condition.

The video combines live-action, interviews with adults and children, and animation to explore the benefits of visual thinking and creative imagination.

It can be viewed on U-Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9wTqBQUXrU> (copy and paste)