Fact Sheet

Understanding dyslexia

Square Pegs
Supporting dyslexia around Tasmania

Dyslexia is a different way of processing, not a measure of intelligence.

Dyslexia is the most common specific learning disorder, also known as SLD, that affects how the brain processes language and written words, and it impacts at least 10% of the population. It primarily impacts reading, spelling and writing, but every dyslexic person experiences it differently.

With the right teaching, appropriate support and an understanding of how they process information, dyslexic people can thrive at school and beyond.

"Dyslexia gives people distinctive ways of thinking about the world."

Professor Rufus Black

Dyslexia isn't...

- A sign of low intelligence
- Caused by poor parenting
- A vision or hearing problem
- Laziness or a lack of effort
- Something children simply "grow out of"

It is...

- A SLD that affects reading accuracy and/or fluency
- A recognised neurodevelopmental learning difference
- Highly common and often hereditary
- Something that responds well to evidence-based teaching and targeted intervention

Did you know?

Dyslexia often occurs alongside other conditions, such as ADHD or Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), which may require additional or different support.

How dyslexia can affect learning

Reading: Reading accurately and fluently often requires enormous effort.

Working memory: Remembering instructions and holding information in mind may require additional support.

Writing and spelling: Getting ideas onto paper and recalling spelling patterns can be challenging.

Organisation: Planning, sequencing and processing information can take more time.

Every dyslexic child looks different. Some children struggle from Prep, while others compensate until later primary or high school.

The good news...

Early identification, structured literacy and appropriate adjustments lead to significantly better outcomes.

Key takeaways

- Dyslexia affects learning, not intelligence.
- Every child experiences dyslexia differently.
- Early support changes lives.

Scan the QR code to download the Square Pegs Parent Guide

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