

CONNECT THE SPOTS 2020

Why it's time to get schools FIT for the FUTURE

Contents

Value of dyslexia

In every classroom, in every school, around the world, there are 1 in 5 kids with exactly the thinking skills needed for the future of work. They are Made By Dyslexia.

But their future skills fail to be recognised by a school system that's shaped for the past.

91% of teachers have little or no understanding of Dyslexic Strengths.¹

In an era of automation, where facts can be Googled; spelling, punctuation and grammar can be corrected at the touch of a button; it is creativity, imagination and intuition that sets us apart from the machines.

As our 'Value of Dyslexia' reports

(produced with EY) spotted – **Dyslexic Thinking Skills map directly to the World Economic Forum's Skills for the Future.**

Dyslexic thinkers are ready for the workplace of tomorrow. If we can reshape how we teach them today.

That's why it's our mission to train every teacher to spot, support and empower every dyslexic child.

Starting from today.

Kate

Kate Griggs
Founder of Made By Dyslexia

¹ Made By Dyslexia Global Parent & Teacher research, 2019.



What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a cognitive difference that results in a different way of thinking (and seeing the world).

Dyslexic minds process information differently, creatively. They are naturally curious, highly creative with an ability to unconventionally connect the dots and think laterally.

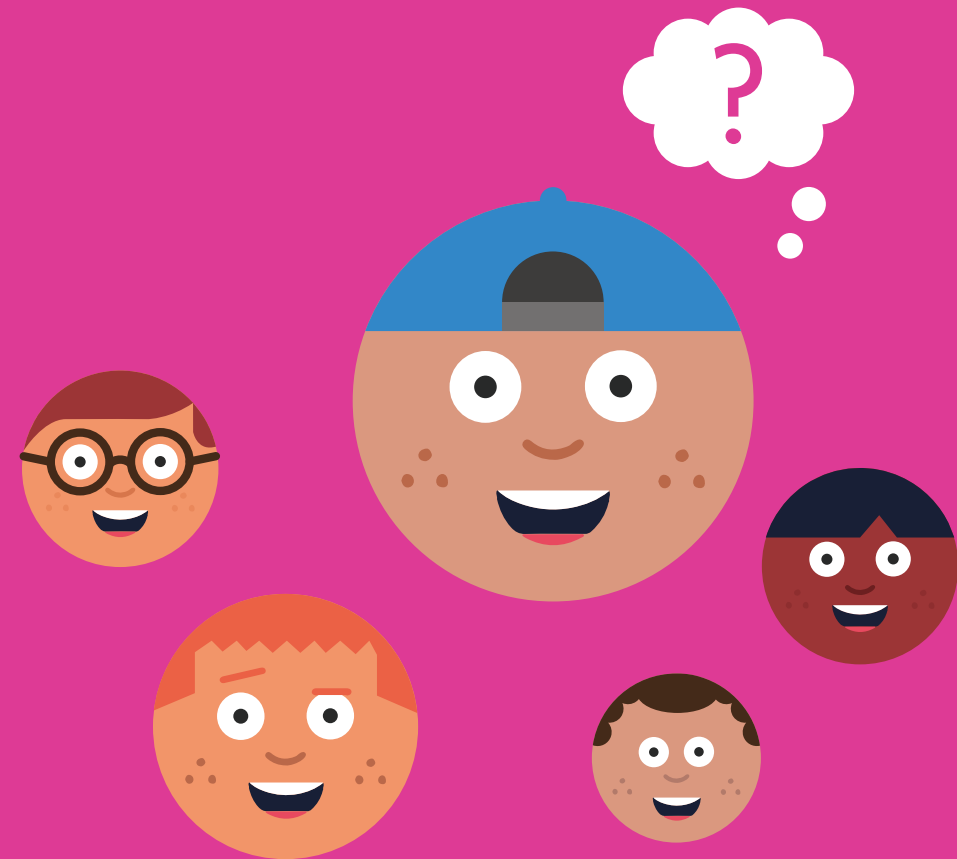
Being Made By Dyslexia results in a different pattern of strengths and challenges.

As many as 1 in 5 people are dyslexic.

But up to 80% of dyslexics are never spotted at school and never fully understand their true potential.

At Made By Dyslexia, we believe in the game-changing power of dyslexic thinking. We're a global charity, led by successful dyslexics. And we're here to help the world understand, value and support dyslexia.

We have one clear mission: to train every teacher to SPOT, SUPPORT and EMPOWER every dyslexic student.



Dyslexic thinking skills

Visualising

Interacting with space, senses, physical ideas & new concepts.

(75% of dyslexics are above average at Visualising).

Imagining

Creating an original piece of work, or giving ideas a new spin.

(84% of dyslexics are above average at Imagining).

Communicating

Crafting & conveying clear & engaging messages.

(71% of dyslexics are above average at Communicating).

Reasoning

Understanding patterns, evaluating possibilities & making decisions.

(84% of dyslexics are above average at Reasoning).

Connecting

Understanding self; connecting, empathising & influencing others.

(80% of dyslexics are above average at Connecting).

Exploring

Being curious & exploring ideas in a constant & energetic way.

(84% of dyslexics are above average at Exploring).

Round pegs in square holes

Right now, our education system labels dyslexic children as 'learning disabled', having 'specific learning difficulties' or 'disorders'.

But our research found that education does not recognise that dyslexics have valuable cognitive differences and strengths which should be spotted and nurtured. 98% say teachers need more training in how to identify and support dyslexia.²

It argues that it is our education system that is disabled, has difficulties and is limited...not dyslexic students.

Without radical change, our education system is in danger of producing a workforce that's ready for the workplace of twenty years ago. That isn't going to help us in 5, 10, 15 years time.



91%
of teachers have little or no understanding of Dyslexic Strengths.²

97%
say teachers need more training in how to identify and support dyslexia.²

87%
of people felt recent reforms in exams disadvantage dyslexic students.³

More than **80%**
of dyslexics leave school unidentified.⁴

² Made By Dyslexia Global Parent & Teacher research, 2019. ³ Made By Dyslexia Dyslexia & Exams research, 2019. ⁴ BDA Research.

21st century minds

The world needs minds who think differently. But how we evaluate, measure and determine what we value in schools is often not aligned with Dyslexic Strengths.

Dyslexic Thinking Skills are not best measured by standardised tests. Or taught in the traditional way we teach. In fact, the benchmarks we use seriously disadvantage dyslexic students.

For example, Communication, Exploring and Reasoning are natural dyslexic strengths, but traditional tests are not designed to showcase their full potential.

As intelligence agencies and global businesses point out, dyslexic minds are mission critical to organisations of the future.



71%
of dyslexics are above average at Communication.
But are penalized for spelling, punctuation and grammar in traditional tests.

84%
of dyslexics are above average at Reasoning. But their use of intuition to evaluate possibilities and make decisions makes it hard to show the workings required in tests.

84%
of dyslexics are above average at Exploring. But this insatiable curiosity is best showcased by coursework, not standardised tests and terminal exams.

70%
70% of parents and teachers say more focus should be given to creativity and innovation and less importance given to standardised testing and exam grades.

What helps dyslexics, helps all

Small changes in the way we teach can make the world of difference to a dyslexic student, and what helps them actually helps all students.

We've known for 85 years what dyslexic children need. The future of

dyslexia has to be to make changes right NOW. So that every single educator is skilled not only to support dyslexics in the way they need to learn, but also to recognise the incredible strengths that dyslexics have.

Interventions used to support dyslexic children to read will support all struggling readers.

Creating an inclusive classroom that supports a dyslexic student will support all students.

Methods that support dyslexic learners, better reflect today's working world.



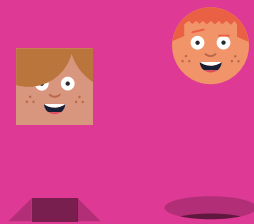
FREE training – For ALL

We've created **free, simple, two-hour training**, that you can take online anytime, featuring dyslexia experts from exemplar schools in the USA and UK, along with celebrity dyslexics who share their stories.

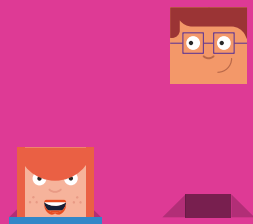
It's designed for dyslexics - but it's essential for all.

It will help all teachers to SPOT, SUPPORT and EMPOWER every dyslexic student.

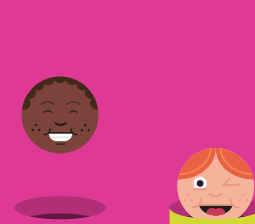
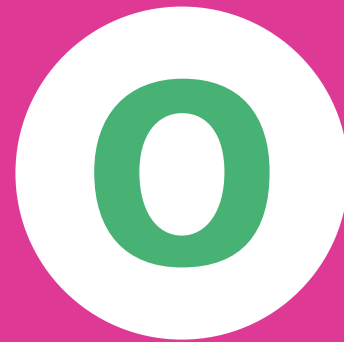
- It's **FREE** – no budget needed
- It's online – teachers can do it at a time that suits them
- It takes just 2 hours



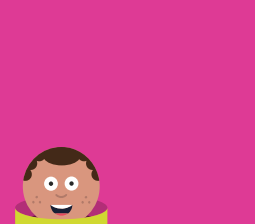
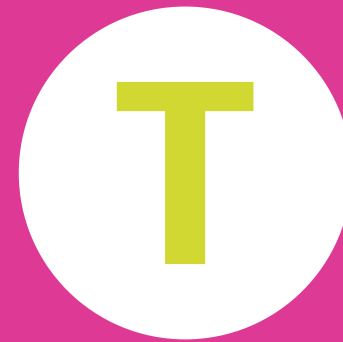
Spot dyslexic strengths and challenges



Plan lessons that benefit all children



Offer support that builds resilience



Transform the attainment of dyslexic children

Making a world of difference

Change comes when we all join together. And each one of us has a part to play in making it happen.

Made By Dyslexia's new campaign, Connect the Spots, is kickstarting a global movement to ensure every teacher is trained to spot, support and empower every dyslexic learner.

1 in 5 children in every classroom is dyslexic. Yet, 80% of them leave school unidentified. So there's an urgency for all of us to step up to

help ensure these individuals are spotted, supported and empowered in the classroom.

We're inspiring dedicated parents, brilliant teachers, passionate educators and committed education authorities across the globe to take our free Dyslexia Awareness training and make change happen now.

Together we can make a world of difference.



3 steps to change

Take the training

Whether you're a parent, teacher or education leader, take this training and help dyslexic minds to THRIVE. It's designed for dyslexics – but it's essential for everyone. It will redefine the way you see dyslexia forever.

 [Take the training](#)

Share the training

Our mission is to train every teacher to spot, support and empower dyslexic learners. You can help by sharing the training with your school, friends or by taking part in the **#DyslexiaChallenge** and tagging 3 people on social media to take the training.

 [Find out more](#)

Become a change-maker

Join our movement and spread the word about our Connect the Spots campaign. Use our toolkit to post on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn. Plus, email your school, School District or government using our simple template.

 [Check out the toolkit](#)

madebydyslexia.org