

Special Educational Needs

Eurotck Sunday PM



Range of SENs

- ▶ Severe – Down’s, Kanner–type autism, visual or hearing impairment etc
- ▶ Dys...lexia, calculia, praxia, graphia
- ▶ ADD/ADHD
- ▶ Speech and language disorders
- ▶ Autistic–spectrum disorders
- ▶ Slow learners



Dyslexia

- ▶ Aka Specific Learning Difficulty/Disorder, Reading Disorder
- ▶ 3–7% population
- ▶ Difficulties with reading and writing expressed in many different ways
- ▶ Genetic causes
- ▶ Less electrical activity in part of brain associated with reading – physical cause
- ▶ Often related to other learning issues



Dyscalculia

- ▶ Similar to dyslexia but with numbers
- ▶ Often connected with other learning disabilities; therefore effects more wide-ranging than 'trouble with maths'
- ▶ 3-6% population



Dyspraxia

- ▶ Aka Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)
- ▶ Poor timing, motor skills, balance, organisation, coordination
- ▶ Generally clumsy
- ▶ Linked to other conditions
- ▶ 5-6% population



Speech and language disorders

- ▶ Range of disabilities
- ▶ Receptive – understanding of others is impaired
- ▶ Expressive – vocabulary is limited, sentences short with parts missing, lost for words
- ▶ Pragmatic (Aka semantic-pragmatic LD), poor on eye-contact and turn taking, over-literal, monotone, etc
- ▶ Linked to other SENs, e.g. pragmatic with ASD
- ▶ Estimates vary up to 7% population



ADD/ADHD

- ▶ 3 types – compulsive, inattentive, and combined
- ▶ Often in trouble at school and struggle on organisation and self-discipline
- ▶ Affects 1–6% of population depending on assessment threshold
- ▶ Approx 4:1 male–female

Slow Learners

- ▶ Lower end of normal distribution curve
- ▶ No specific disabilities
- ▶ MK schools geared to high achievers may be less sympathetic; child ‘just needs to work harder’ to keep up

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

- ▶ Most commonly as Asperger’s syndrome
- ▶ Often linked to dyspraxia and pragmatic language disorder
- ▶ Literal black and white thinkers, obsessive, love to talk about pet themes, more at ease with facts and figures than feelings, difficult to read body language and tone of voice, rigid play patterns and rituals
- ▶ About 1.1% population
- ▶ Approx 5:1 male–female (although may be under-diagnosed in females)

**SEN Case study on
Asperger's Syndrome
in a mission family**


