

Dyspraxia



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What is dyspraxia?

Dyspraxia is an impairment or immaturity of the organisation of movement. Associated with this there may be problems of language, perception and thought.

Movement – Gross and fine motor skills are hard to learn, difficult to retain and generalise, and hesitant and awkward in performance.

Language – Articulation may be immature, impaired or under developed.

Perception – There is a poor understanding of messages that the senses convey and difficulty in relating these messages into action.

Thought – Dyspraxic children may have difficulty in planning and organising thoughts and ideas.

Living with Dyspraxia

Some children appear to be poorly co-ordinated, disorganised, untidy personally and sometimes disorientated in respect to their physical environment, i.e. they get lost easily.

Children with Dyspraxia find it difficult to put their ideas and thoughts on paper. They have problems settling down to tasks and often disturbing others before starting tasks. Difficulties in handwriting are also prevalent.

Many children have poor memory functions; they often have difficulty remembering where they left possessions, problems with absorbing and recalling information. Parents often report that a child has forgotten instructions.

Some children have difficulty in amusing themselves and often show some loss of creativity in play and leisure situations. Children with Dyspraxia will often avoid any form of physical activity.

Practical Tips

The Leader should let the Scout know they are interested in their difficulties. Praise wherever possible and help the Scout to have moments of success. Emphasise what they can do, not what they cannot manage.

Give them time to organise their thoughts and complete their task. They may need extra time for various activities.

Often their concentration span is limited, so it is important to gauge how long they can work easily. End the task before they lose concentration to prevent further frustration.

Further Information

Discuss with the individual and/or parents the extent to which help is needed and learn any practical tips they can offer.

Support Organisations

The Dyspraxia Foundation
www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Contact a Family
www.cafamily.org.uk/Direct/d48.html

The Scout Information Centre

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