

# Dyslexia: the facts and figures

## 1. The extent of problem

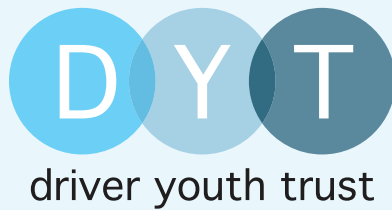
- 10% of children in this country are dyslexic.<sup>1</sup>
- 1 in 8 children in this country fail to master the basics of reading, and 1 in 5 fails to master the basics of writing at the end of primary school.<sup>2</sup>
- At secondary level, over a third of young people failed to achieve the expected level of an A+ to C in English in 2011.<sup>3</sup>
- 1 in 6 people in the UK struggle with literacy, with their level being below that expected of an 11 year old.<sup>4</sup>
- 6 million UK adults are functionally illiterate, meaning they cannot read a medicine bottle, food label or fill out a job application form.<sup>5</sup>
- On average three children in every classroom are dyslexic and struggle with literacy (around 1.2 million children).<sup>6</sup>

## 2. Teaching children with SEN - the facts

- 84% of teachers told us it was very important to be trained in teaching children with dyslexia.
- While a Government survey of newly qualified teachers (NQTs) indicates that training for teachers in how to teach reading has improved slightly in recent years, a third (32%) of NQTs in primary schools still rated their training in teaching children to read as satisfactory or poor.<sup>7</sup>
- 9 out of 10 parents of children with dyslexia say that teachers lack the proper training needed to support their child.
- 1 in 9 said that a teacher had made fun of their child's mistakes or wrong answers.
- Latest figures show<sup>8</sup> that only 26% of pupils with a specific learning difficulty (the majority of whom will have dyslexia) achieved the expected level in both English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 in 2010/11, compared to 87% for those with no special educational needs.

## 3. The economic and social costs of dyslexia

- An analysis by the Department for Education showed that pupils who entered secondary school with very low literacy skills had an exclusion rate five times that of pupils who were more able to read and write.<sup>9</sup>



- Research by KPMG finds that each illiterate pupil, by the age of 37, has cost the taxpayer an additional £45,000 when you add up extra costs relating to the education system, unemployment support and the criminal justice system.<sup>10</sup>
- The Every Child a Chance Trust estimated that poor literacy costs the UK up to £2.5bn per year.<sup>11</sup>
- Low levels of literacy obviously make it harder to find employment. One study found 4 out of 10 unemployed people using Jobcentre Plus were dyslexic.<sup>12</sup>
- Around half of people in prison struggle with poor literacy (an estimated 52% according to one study which is consistent with previous research) and 1 in 5 people in prison are understood to have dyslexia.<sup>13</sup>
- The charity Xtraordinary People has estimated the cost of not providing dyslexia training for teachers at £1.8bn per year.<sup>14</sup>

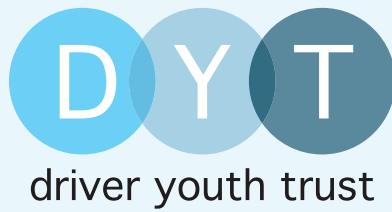
## 4. DYT research into dyslexia training told us:

Teachers are not currently getting the training they need to support children who struggle to read and write:

- More than a third of teacher training providers (35%) spent less than a day of their courses training teachers how to support children who struggle with literacy.
- Almost a quarter (23%) did not specifically assess their trainees' ability to teach children who struggle with literacy.
- Despite this, 8 out of 10 providers (84%) were satisfied with their training on literacy.

Teachers got even less training in how to identify and support children who are dyslexic:

- 7 out of 10 providers (69%) spent less than a day training students how to support children with dyslexia.
- Nearly a third of providers spent less than half a day teaching teachers about dyslexia.
- Only 18% of providers offered an optional extra module, placement or project on dyslexia or on special educational needs (including dyslexia).
- Despite this 7 out of 10 (65%) were satisfied with their training on dyslexia.



## 5. What teachers told DYT:

In relation to teaching those children who struggle with literacy:

- 60% of teachers we surveyed did not feel satisfied that their initial teacher training provided them with the skills they need to teach those who struggle to learn to read and write.

In relation to teaching children with dyslexia:

- 74% of teachers did not feel satisfied that their initial teacher training provided them with the skills they need to identify and teach children with dyslexia.

Teachers' experiences of their dyslexia training:

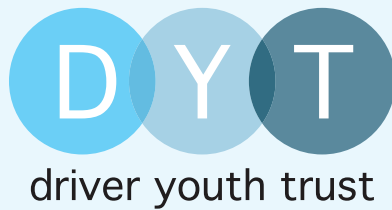
- Half (52%) said they had received no training on dyslexia.
- A further 18% had received less than an hour of training.
- 9 out of 10 teachers surveyed had received less than half a day of training on dyslexia.

Teachers want more training on dyslexia:

- 8 out of 10 (84%) teachers thought it was very important that teachers are trained in teaching children with dyslexia. They do not want to be sent into classrooms without the skills they need to teach dyslexic children.

## 6. Some famous people with dyslexia

- George Washington
- Pablo Picasso
- Steve Jobs
- Whoopi Goldberg
- Albert Einstein
- Stephen Spielberg
- Richard Branson
- Jamie Oliver
- Keira Knightley
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Winston Churchill
- Walt Disney
- Kirsty Alsopp
- Anthony Hopkins



## References

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8. Department for Education (2012) Statistical release: Children with special educational needs – An analysis – 2012. (Ref: SFR24/2012)
9. Every Child a Chance Trust (2009) The long term costs of literacy difficulties, 2nd edition. p12
10. KPMG Foundation (2006) The long term costs of literacy difficulties. p3
11. Every Child a Chance Trust (2009) The long term costs of literacy difficulties, 2nd edition. p5
12. Referenced by Baroness Walmsley, House of Lords. Hansard Lords: 28 Jun 2012: Column 385.
13. Rack, J. (2005) The incidence of hidden disabilities in the prison population. York: The Dyslexia Institute.
14. Xtraordinary People (2008) Spell it out

## About the Driver Youth Trust

The Driver Youth Trust is a charity dedicated to improving the life chances of children and young people, with a focus on those who struggle with literacy, particularly children with dyslexia.

We work in partnership with other organisations to help children to access education, build their confidence and realise their goals.

We campaign for policy change so that all children, including those with dyslexia, get the right support to learn to read and write and reach their full potential.

For more information, please go to: [www.driveryouthtrust.com](http://www.driveryouthtrust.com) or email us at: [info@driveryouthtrust.com](mailto:info@driveryouthtrust.com)

*The Driver Youth Trust is a registered charity, number: 1120720.*