

## **Making my Classroom 'Dyslexia-Friendly': 10 Top Tips**

1. Celebrate strengths and success across a wide range of endeavours (deliberately and frequently); create opportunities for dyslexic students to succeed, using specific praise to help them build an accurate picture of their strengths.
2. Have visual aids available for every lesson, or ask students to create some, as part of the lesson. Make good use of multi-sensory sources of information.
3. Actively teach study/note taking skills e.g. key word notes, spider plans and encourage students to use them. Provide notes for a focus on meaning and annotation, rather than copying.
4. Vary input and outcomes, such as through the use of small groups, discussion and audiotapes to maintain interest and provide memorable experiences!
5. Avoid long lists of instructions given verbally and provide a clear lesson structure – use the board to provide information visually, where appropriate.
6. Make sure that high frequency work lists and subject-specific key wordlists are available on each table for any writing task.
7. Always have a ready supply of parallel reading books and other suitable reading material.
8. Encourage alternative ways of recording: always have a range of materials available e.g. individual white / black boards (be aware of glare off the boards) and coloured pens, tape recorders; large sheets of paper and felt pens; writing frames.
9. Label classroom resources clearly and keep clutter to a minimum, to create an orderly, structured yet attractive environment.
10. Do not draw attention to their difficulties; avoid: copying from the board; reciting times tables; reading aloud; undifferentiated spelling tests.