

Embargoed: 00.01hrs Sunday 10th October 2021

Dyspraxia Week 10th – 16th October 2021



Announcing the Launch of Dyspraxia Week 2021 – focusing on the urgent need to improve support for children with dyspraxia in UK primary and secondary schools.

It is a little-known fact that Dyspraxia affects 6% of the population. Following the most challenging of times for all children in primary and secondary schools, the Dyspraxia Foundation is using this year's Dyspraxia Week – 10th to 16th October - to urge the teaching professionals to find out more about how to support children with dyspraxia who continue to fall 'under the radar' and miss out on vital support in schools.

Sophie Kayani, parent and Chair of the Dyspraxia Foundation said; "We have worked hard continue our services supporting parents of children with dyspraxia, young people and adults with the condition. Our online helpline and website have been inundated during the past 18 months and we have been fortunate to keep our team working remotely to ensure our regular services continue. We know that home-learning was extremely hard for many families, but even more so for those affected by dyspraxia. Parents and young people themselves have told us the pandemic made them even more anxious than usual and the closure of schools and lack of education has really taken its toll. Dyspraxia continues to be the 'poor relation' in terms of teacher training and awareness. We really hope educational specialists will take up many activities and learning opportunities we have planned during Dyspraxia Week this year, to revisit this urgent educational priority."

"Parents who contact our helpline service often express concern about how difficult it has been get their child's needs recognised. In some cases, their children have been dismissed as lazy or naughty, when in fact they have been working hard to try to keep up with their peers – often whilst coping with extreme anxiety. Too often these misunderstandings are the result of lack of teacher training, poor resources and lack of capacity to adapt teaching methods to ensure these children can be successful."

Eleanor Howes, Chief Executive of the Dyspraxia Foundation said "We do see areas of good practice around the country and we are working closely with health and education specialists to help achieve progress. But Covid-19 has not been kind to young people affected by dyspraxia. Parents are being passed from one professional to another in the pursuit of a diagnosis and support. This is delaying children from receiving the professional help they need and deserve, and we are urgently seeking action or we are going to have generations of young people irrevocably set-back in their lives."

This year's Dyspraxia Week will see the charity host a wide range of on-line activities, events, training opportunities and shared learning – all aimed at improving the educational experience for young people with dyspraxia at primary and secondary school. Educational professionals are welcome to view the schedule on our website at:

<https://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/awareness-weeks/dyspraxia-week-2021/>

Parents and young people are also invited to take part, share their experiences, and help raise awareness of this vital issue.

Please visit <https://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/> for further information on dyspraxia and the Dyspraxia Foundation or contact info@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk if you would like more information how to get involved in fundraising or awareness activities during Dyspraxia Week 2021. **ENDS**

Notes to Editors:

1. Media enquiries or to set up an interview/be put in touch with a local representative, please email media@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk
2. Dyspraxia is a lifelong condition which affects the gross and fine motor coordination in both children and adults. It affects 6% of the population. Dyspraxia sometimes runs in families – and there are believed to be one to two children affected in every class of 30 children
3. Symptoms of dyspraxia can include frequently falling over, difficulty walking up and down the stairs, no spatial awareness and poor handwriting skills. Many of those who are diagnosed with dyspraxia also experience difficulties with organisational skills, memory, processing speed and in some cases speech.
4. Dyspraxia Foundation provides resources, support and information to parents, carers, health and education professionals across the UK. We also work directly with those diagnosed with dyspraxia who wish to learn more about their condition and how to cope with living with the condition.
5. The Dyspraxia Foundation helpline continues to be available via the website [Contact Our Helpline Service | Dyspraxia Foundation](#)
6. The Dyspraxia Foundation runs support groups in 27 locations across the UK – all of which are run by dedicated volunteers many of whom have dyspraxia themselves or who have a child with the condition.

Dyspraxia Foundation, 8 West Alley, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EG

Contact: admin@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk Email the Helpline via the Helpline Tab on the website.

Website: www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

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