WHAT IS DYSGRAPHIA?

The word 'dysgraphia' comes from the Greek and literally means 'difficulty with writing'.

Definition: Dysgraphia is a specific learning difference which is characterised by difficulties with handwriting and fine motor skills, and by difficulties expressing thoughts and ideas in writing.

Individuals with dysgraphia may have problems with the simplest written tasks and legibility of hand written material may be a significant issue. The impact of these difficulties can be mitigated by inclusive teaching, strategy development and the use of assistive technology.

There are a number of related learning differences which may also have overlapping or contributory features to dysgraphia. These include:

- Dyslexia (difficulty with reading, spelling, grammar and expressing thoughts and ideas in writing)
- Dyspraxia (difficulties with movement, perception, language and thought)
- Dyscalculia (difficulty in conceptualising numbers, number relationships and outcomes of numerical operations)

Difficulties and Strengths*


- General illegible writing despite appropriate time and attention given to the task.
- Mix of print and cursive and upper and lower case and changes in shape size and slant.
- Failure to attend to writing details, unfinished words and letters, and omitted words.
- Irregular spacing between words and letters.
- Excessive erasures.

Possible Strengths

- Innovative thinkers.
- Excellent trouble shooters.
- Intuitive problem solving.
- Creative in many different ways.

* These will vary from individual to individual
Useful Contacts

Rachel Salmon – Disability Adviser, Student Support Services
Tel: 273935
Email: r.salmon@abdn.ac.uk

Student Learning Service
www.abdn.ac.uk/sls