



Dyspraxia

What is it?

Dyspraxia is also known as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD). It has been described as a “difficulty getting our bodies to do what we want when we want them to do”, a difficulty that can be considered significant when it interferes with the normal range of activities expected of a child of their age. Dyspraxia can adversely affect speech and language, fine motor control and gross motor coordination.

Signs and symptoms

Handwriting difficulties	Struggles to use tools, utensils, cutlery	Could bump into people	Struggle with running, kicking, hopping
Poor attention span & easily distracted	Difficulties with understanding prepositional vocabulary	Find it difficult to follow instructions	Poorly organised
Struggle with explaining their needs/ answering a questions	Some social struggles in regards to judging how to behave	Struggle with change	

Strategies

Encouragement and positive praise	Pencil grip	Alternative to handwritten work (speech to text/ scribe)	Non slip mat for under books
Extended time to complete a task	Step by step instructions and check understanding after each	Task board	Limit looking from desk to board and back again
Encourage graphic organisers	Fully demonstrate a new skill	Use an equipment checklist	Specialist resources (slant/scissors/ridged rulers)