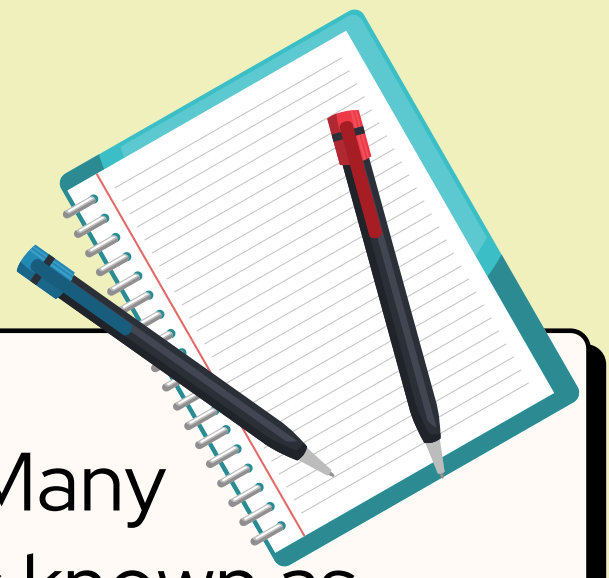




Blossom

Children's Occupational Therapy

DYSGRAPHIA



Dysgraphia is a term that refers to trouble with writing. Many experts view dysgraphia as challenges with a set of skills known as transcription. It can manifest itself as difficulties with spelling, poor hand writing and trouble putting thoughts on paper. Dysgraphia is often co-morbid with other conditions such as ADHD or DCD for example.

Key difficulties

- * Struggling to think of the words to write or using the incorrect word in a sentence.
- * Handwriting is illegible (poor formation, spacing, letter reversals, mixture of upper/lower case, unfinished letters)
- * Slow handwriting speed
- * Difficulties with spellings in free writing
- * Missing punctuation or poor use of grammar
- * Poor fine motor control
- * Unusual pencil grip
- * Tires quickly during handwriting or experiences pain
- * Refusal to complete handwriting tasks
- * Excellent ideas but not always able to "get these onto paper".

Example of handwriting

The quick
brown fox jumps over
the lazy dog

Helpful tips

- * Extra time to complete handwriting
- * Visual supports for learning
- * Alternative recording methods (touch typing is not always helpful for these children)
- * SnapType app
- * Specialist pencil grips
- * Key vocab lists and checklists
- * Speech to text software or Dictaphone's
- * Time to proof read
- * Opportunities and time to visually plan work
- * Broken down instructions
- * Use coloured paper with raised lines or graph paper when handwriting
- * Complete a fine motor skills programme

Further reading / helpful websites

1. www.understood.org
2. www.dyslexia.org.uk
3. Dysgraphia: A Parent's Guide to Understanding Dysgraphia and Helping a Dysgraphic Child. By N.Brant
4. Writing Right: A Story About Dysgraphia . By C.Baker (for children age 5-10 yrs)

