

Supporting a Dyslexic Learner

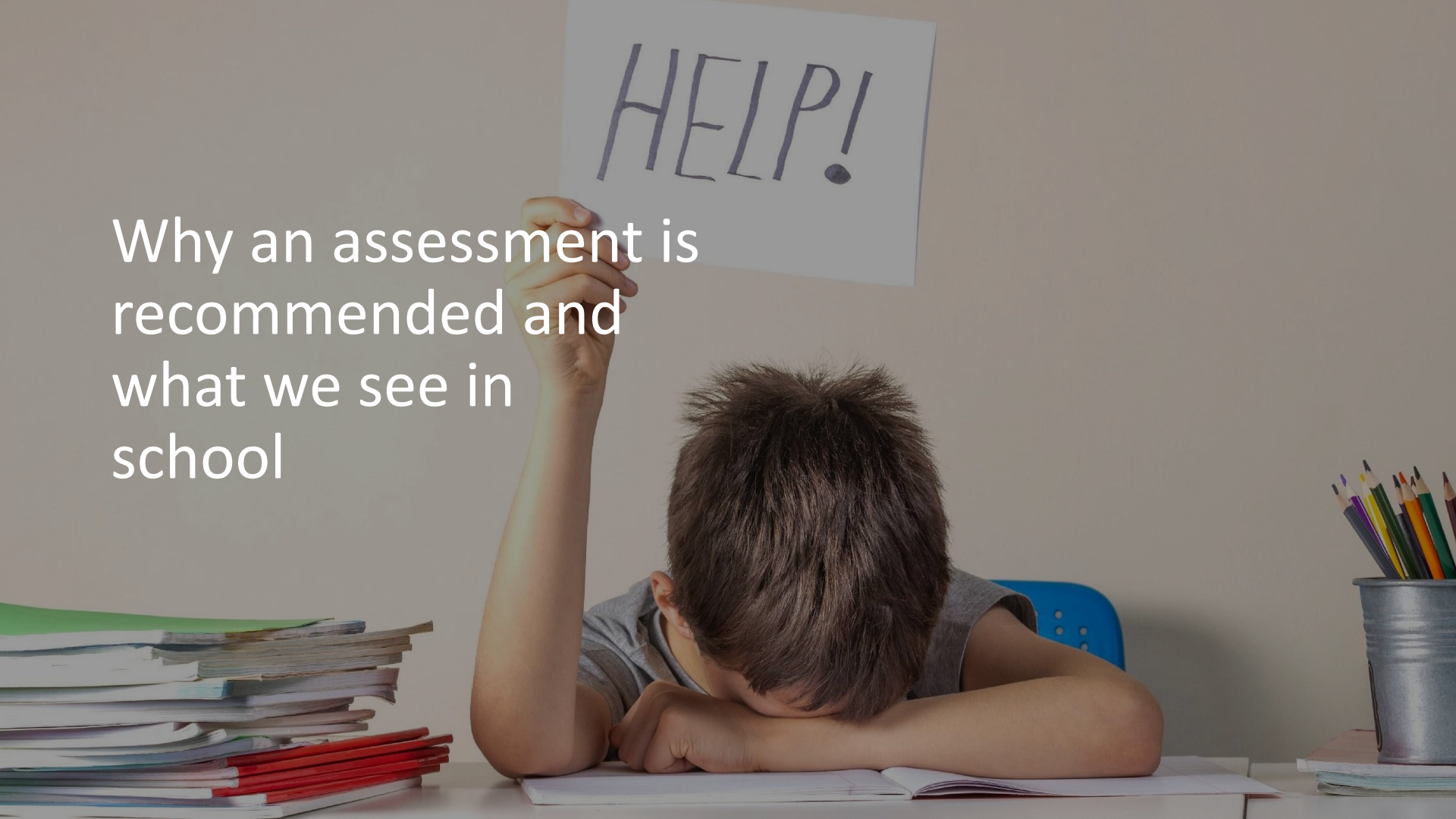
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Why an assessment is
recommended and
what we see in
school





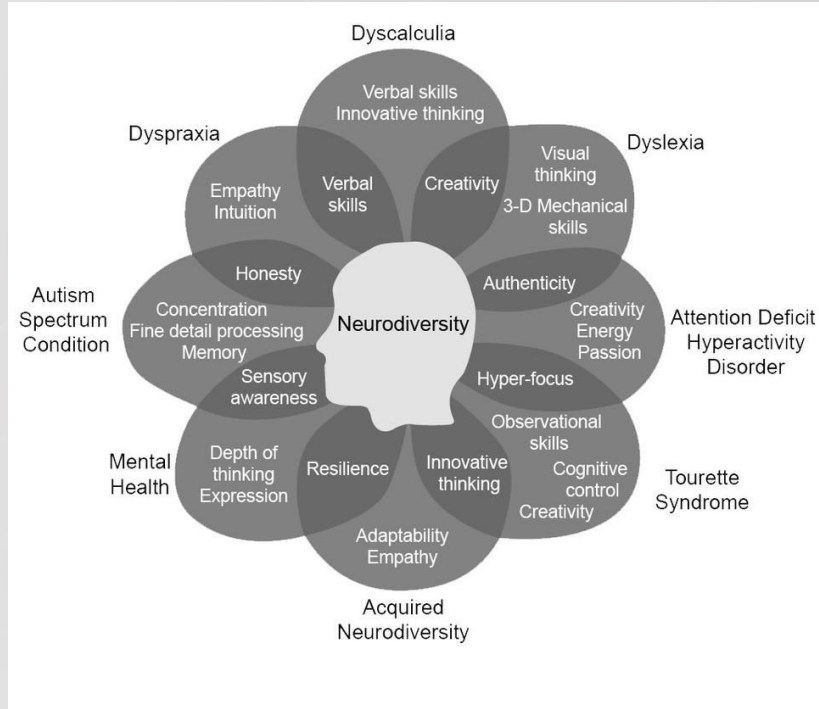
Reading

Spelling

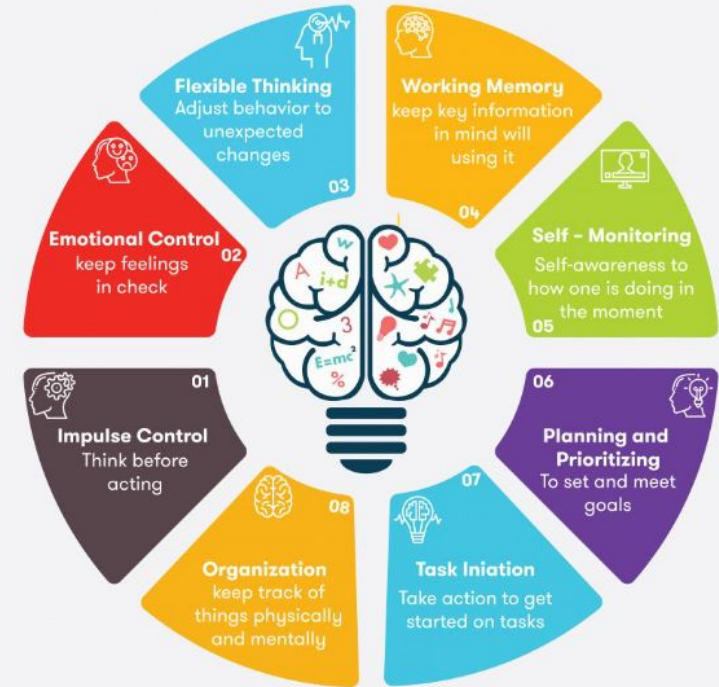
Writing
Difficulties

Sequencing
Difficulties

Neurodiversity and Executive Functions



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING



What an
assessment
looks at:



Cognitive testing

Verbal and
visual
reasoning

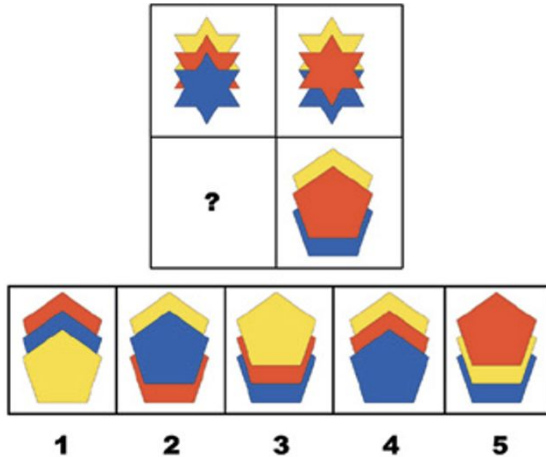
Phonological
and phonemic
awareness

Phonological
speed of
processing

Working
memory



Verbal and Visual Reasoning



What are they:



Cognitive tests for underlying academic ability. Verbal is problem solving based around words and language and vocabulary knowledge. Visual is analysing patterns and solving problems in visual form.



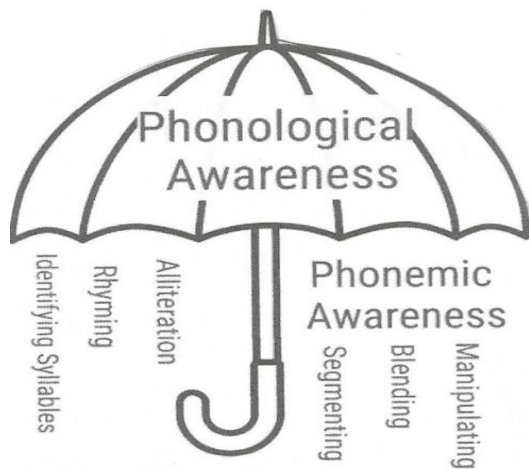
How are they tested:



Verbal problems such as “*Kitten is to cat as puppy is to*” and word definitions. Visual problems such as solving visual patterns and visual puzzles.



Phonological Awareness



What it is:



Phonological awareness is the broad skill of being able to identify and manipulate sounds in words



How it is tested:



For example, identify oral rhymes, clap out syllables in words, recognise same initial sounds such as cat and cold.

Phonemic Awareness

Phoneme Chart

s	t	p	n	m	a	e	i	o
sat	tap	pan	nose	mat	ant	egg	ink	otter
g	d	c k	r	h	u	ai	ee	igh
goat	dog	click	run	hat	up	rain	bee	light
b	f	l	j	v	oa	oo	oo	ar
bus	fun	lolly	jam	van	boat	book	boot	star
w	x	y	z	qu	or	ur	ow	oi
wish	box	yell	zoo	quit	fort	turn	cow	boil
ch	sh	th	ng	ear	air	ure	er	😊
chin	ship	that	ring	near	hair	sure	her	



What is phonemic awareness?



Phonemic Awareness is an important phonological skill, being the first step in learning to use phonics. E.g identify sounds in words, sounding out letters of a word and blend them back together.

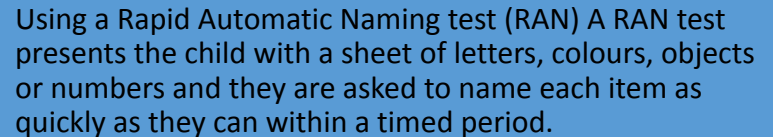
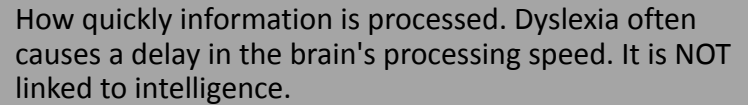


How it is tested:



Remove 'edge' from 'sledge'. What is left? (sl) Swap the first sound in 'cat' to 'h'. What word is made? (hat) Change the middle vowel sound in 'hat' to 'o'. What does the word become? (hot) Switch the final letter of 'hot' with 'p'. What is the word now? (hop)





Working Memory



What it is:



Working memory is a type of short-term memory that stores information temporarily during the completion of cognitive tasks, such as remembering instructions, remembering and comprehending what has been read, remembering sequences of information such as times tables.



How it is tested:



Repeating sequences of digits and letters forwards and backwards, remembering stories listened to, remembering visual sequences of objects, remembering sounds when blending them together.

Attainment Testing

Phonic knowledge:
Links between sounds and
letters

Reading Accuracy and Efficiency

Reading Comprehension
Understanding and recalling
what has been read

Spelling :
Accuracy in a single word test
and when writing

Writing:
Legibility, speed, punctuation,
grammar, organisation of ideas

Writing
Legibility, speed, punctuation,
grammar, organisation of ideas

Maths
Using and applying maths,
Counting, Number bonds,
Times tables and Shape

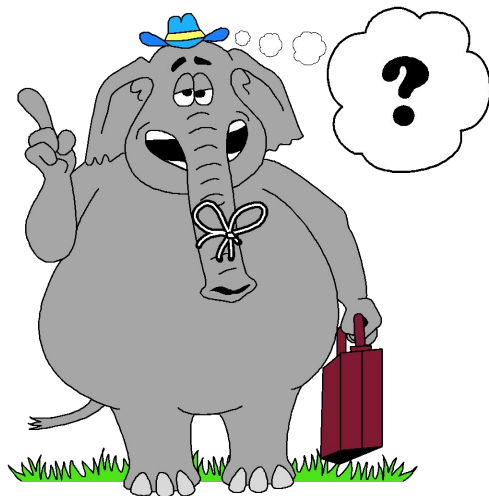
How helpful is a diagnosis?

- Picture of child's strengths and any areas of concern
- Provides basis for targeted support
- Provides evidence for examination accommodations
- Often a relief to both children and parents
- Can be a protective factor against low self-esteem



Recommendations

Individual to each child...



Memory/Concentration

Examples of in class recommendations

- Use multisensory methods as much as possible
- Break larger tasks down into smaller chunks
- Give clear overviews of lessons and review prior knowledge
- Explain key words
- Repeat instructions
- Repetition of learning
- Use appropriate seating

Recommendations

Literacy

- Specialist support
- Phonological awareness – blending/segmenting words by sound
- Phonic knowledge
- Reading accuracy – how to decode words
- Spelling accuracy – using a variety of methods
- Developing reading comprehension
- Developing handwriting skills
- Use of scaffolding to help plan and organise writing





Recommendations

Numeracy

- Specialist support
- Use of concrete resources, memory aids
- Catch up support programmes
- Exercises for mental maths
- Computer based programmes

Recommendations

Home



- Patience and understanding
- Paired reading
- Audio books and subtitles on devices
- Supporting computer games for reading, spelling and numeracy
- Organisational support
- Study skills ideas