

# The best way to present resources to support Dyslexic learners

## 1. Font/type face

After much debate and some scientific research there is a developing sense of the best fonts/typefaces to use to make reading as straight-forward as possible for dyslexic learners.

Here is a summary of best practice

- Sans serif is best.
- Roman (i.e. upright) is much better than italics.
- Minimise caps and underlining. They reduce readability.
- Font size should be at least 12 - 14 points
- Where possible, "p and q" and "d and b" should be distinct and not mirror images of each other. (not easy!)
- Line spacing should be 1.5.
- Favoured fonts are
  - Helvetica
  - Comic Sans
  - Arial
  - Verdana
  - There is a specifically designed dyslexia friendly font as well, that can be googled. (Free for individuals, a cost for businesses)
  - There is some evidence that: -

**Q** is better than **a**

## 2. Paper

- Use matt paper, not glossy
- Paper should be thick enough so that text on the other side does not show through.
- Where possible use buff coloured or pastel coloured paper - as opposed to stark white paper.
- At least give learners the choice.

### **3. Layout of text**

- Avoid blocks of text - use bullet points or numbers rather than continuous prose.
- Use diagrams, mind maps or illustrations.
- Pictograms, flow charts are useful
- Use flow charts to illustrate procedures
- Avoid narrow columns (as often used in newspapers)
- Avoid starting sentences at the end of a line.
- Use left justified text with a ragged right hand edge.
- Give assistance by scaffolding answers. Use subheadings to assist the learner with organising their thoughts.

### **4. Use of language**

- Use short sentences
- Avoid double negatives
- Use the active as opposed to the passive voice.
- When writing numbers - like telephone numbers - chunk the numbers in groups. Eg. 123 456 789, as opposed to 123456789

### **5. General**

- Allow the option of learners answering on line - or at least in digital form - so they can use technology like Dragon Naturally Speaking or Read Write Gold - to assist them.
- If calculations are involved provide for squared paper to assist learners get numbers correctly lined up.
- Use colour coding to emphasise different parts of the text - and to distinguish different sections or activities.