

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

- Talk to your child's school if you are worried about your child's literacy progress
- Consider having your child's hearing and eyesight checked
- Build your child's confidence by praising their efforts and focusing on their successes
- Literacy should be both useful and fun. Encourage literacy activities around your child's interests. There are lots of free resources online that might be helpful.
- Show your child that you use and enjoy your literacy skills, e.g. writing shopping lists, reading the paper or cinema times.

HOMEWORK

- If your child has literacy difficulties they may be more tired than their peers after school and need a break before starting homework.
- If homework is too difficult or makes your child distressed don't persist, instead talk to your child's teacher.
- Try to establish good homework routines away from distractions.
- Talk to your child's teacher if your child has difficulty remembering homework, they may be able to communicate homework directly with you or help your child to record information differently.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For further information on dyslexia:

SBC dyslexia flyer: information for parents:
www.scotborders.gov.uk/dyslexiainfo

SBC dyslexia policy
www.scotborders.gov.uk/dyslexiapolicy

For Education Scotland's Parent Zone:
www.education.gov.scot/parentzone

For the Dyslexia toolkit:
addressingdyslexia.org

For Dyslexia Scotland:
www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

For free educational games and typing skills:
www.doorwayonline.org.uk

National Listening Library for audiobooks:
www.listening-books.org.uk

For advice on education policy and your rights:
www.enquire.org.uk

For Scottish Book Trust's Read, Write, Count literacy resources:
www.scottishbooktrust.com/topics/read-write-count

Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA
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SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH LITERACY DIFFICULTIES:

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



February 2020

Children & Young People Department
Educational Psychology Service
Developed in collaboration with SBC parents

WHAT ARE LITERACY DIFFICULTIES?

Many children and young people have difficulties with learning to read, write and/or spell at some point during their schooling. These difficulties vary but may include:

- problems remembering sounds in words,
- confusing letters,
- finding words moving on a page, or
- having difficulty copying from the board.

Literacy difficulties can run in families and have other associated difficulties such as following instructions, understanding language and recalling information.

With the right support most literacy difficulties can be managed and will not prevent your child from learning and achieving great things.



HOW WILL MY CHILD'S SCHOOL HELP?

Once the school is aware that your child has literacy difficulties they will start gathering more specific information about your child's difficulties. This information may include; observation notes, use of checklists, and individual or group test results done with your child. This information is gathered together as your child's Literacy Profile.

The teachers will use this information to adapt the ways they work with your child. The school will also put appropriate strategies in place and see how your child responds. These strategies might include:

- providing individual or small groups to teach specific skills
- reducing the amount of writing required
- offering Information Technology

The school will give you and your child feedback about your child's needs and the supports in place.

With appropriate support some children respond well and will no longer require additional support. Others may require continuing support.

If your child continues to have literacy difficulties then your school may want to investigate if your child has dyslexia. If this is the case the school will meet with you .

WHAT IS THE PROCESS

Below is the process every Scottish Borders council school follows to support children with literacy difficulties:

Flowchart: Supporting Literacy Difficulties

