

Welcome to the Lexxic Newsletter! February 2009

Lexxic's newsletter will contain information about some of the latest developments and strategies being used within the field of dyslexia. In each bi-monthly edition there will be knowledge and tips you can take away and apply.

The newsletter is **free** to everyone; people just need to sign up at www.lexxic.com or send an e-mail to info@lexxic.com

Features in this Edition:

- **Disability Targets for the Public Sector**-*Recruit more people with disabilities*
- **Does Dyslexia Exist, Stringer, Labour MP asks?**
- **Mind Mapping Fun!!!**

Disability targets to be introduced this year for the Public Sector

'Public sector employers will be required to recruit more people with mental and learning disabilities to meet government targets introduced later this year'. – Guy Logan, 22nd January 2009-Personnel Today

The government's New Opportunities White Paper on social mobility
<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/media/9102/NewOpportunities.pdf>

requires the sector to alter its hiring policies to ensure more individuals with disabilities are recruited into the workplace.

The White Paper says "The public sector needs to lead by example in its recruitment of those with moderate to severe learning disabilities and severe mental health conditions. The Department of Health is leading work to help the NHS employ more people from the groups, and the Civil Service will modify its recruitment practices to do the same."

This has led to an increasing number of public sector organisations attending workshops such as the:

Take Action-attend the following workshop

- **Dyslexia Friendly Recruitment, Selection and Assessment workshop** that we are running on 2nd April 2009-London.
- For more information info@lexxic.com



Does Dyslexia Exist Stringer, Labour MP asks?

Graham Stringer attracted much criticism as he described dyslexia as a 'cruel fiction'

Labour backbencher Graham Stringer is attracting criticism after describing dyslexia as a "cruel fiction".

He wrote "If dyslexia really existed then countries as diverse as Nicaragua and South Korea would not have been able to achieve literacy rates of nearly 100 per cent,"

The Manchester Blackley MP argued dyslexia, which affects six million people in the UK, should be "consigned to the dustbin of history" in an article for ManchesterConfidential.com.



Above picture of Graham Stringer-Labour MP (<http://www.politics.co.uk>)

Mr Blackley also said: "To label children as dyslexic because they're confused by poor teaching methods is wicked."

There is so much evidence to favour the existence of dyslexia. It is frustrating that the focus of the article making the headlines is about 'does it exist' rather than more publicity about ways individuals with dyslexia are combating or minimising their difficulties to maximise their strengths.

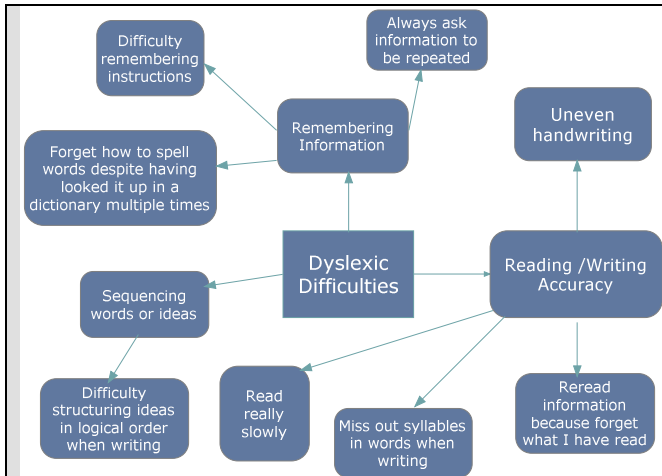
'As a Psychologist, when we assess for dyslexia we are looking for specific difficulties the individual is having. If we did not have the term 'dyslexia', I imagine many individuals with dyslexia would still be struggling to get recognition and tailored support to enable them to minimise their difficulties and maximise their true potential'. *Nicola James Psychologist-Lexxic Adult Dyslexia Consultancy*

Mind Mapping

This is a great way to structure your thoughts and ideas. Particularly if you

- Learn better from diagrams and pictures;
- Like to see how all points on a topic link together;

However, if you prefer to complete a series of tasks step by step, a mind map might not be for you!



How to use a Mind Map:

A Mind Map is a visual tool that lets you collate an overview of a topic and see how items related to this topic link together. For example:

- 1) Firstly you identify the central topic-like 'dyslexic difficulties'
- 2) Then you identify the main themes that surround this topic for example:
 - a. Reading Accuracy
 - b. Remembering Information
- 3) You link these topics back to the main topic. You might prefer to do this like the above diagram or use pictures instead to illustrate the different points-(see the diagram in the next column)
- 4) Then you can use these diagrams to help remember or retain information or support in the structure of essays or reports.

An example of a mind map using images



(reference www.diabeticinfo.co.uk)

Take Action

If you would like a guidance sheet on Mind Mapping please contact info@lexxic.com



Forthcoming Events

Workshop:

Dyslexia Friendly Recruitment Selection and Assessment

Date-2nd April 2009

Venue-London

Contact us to find out more
info@lexxic.com or ring
0845 643 2754

Workshop:

Dyslexia in the Workplace For Occupational Health Professionals

Date-31st March 2009

Venue-London

Contact us to find out more
info@lexxic.com or ring
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Tip of the Day A Portable Electronic Spell Checker

Do you have difficulty remembering how to spell words?

A phonetic spell check for example the Franklin Spellcheckers & Dictionaries is a portable dictionary/thesaurus with phonetic spell checker and mini subject dictionaries. You can use this product to help you look up spellings. Some electronic spell checkers will also be able to read out a word to you. So if you read words and are uncertain of what the word is, all you have to do is type it into the portable spell checker and it will read it out to you. To purchase this product go to www.dyslexic.com.

Next Month's Edition

- Dyslexia Support in the Workplace
- Setting up a dyslexia helpline for your employees.

Your Opinion Counts!

If you are interested in writing for the newsletter please contact Lexxic website www.lexxic.com or send an e-mail to info@lexxic.com.

If you require a copy in word format please contact us.



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