



Guidelines on Individual Tuition for Dyslexia

A good tutor can help someone with dyslexia to develop their skills and their self-esteem. One-to-one sessions can be tailored to each individual's needs and pace of work. Sessions can be focussed on the specific areas where the individual is currently struggling. Areas which may be covered include reading, spelling, writing, maths, study skills, exam techniques, organisation and time management, or specific work-related tasks for adults. Use of appropriate assistive technology may also be included as part of a tuition session.

For parents, it's important to consider whether individual tuition is suited to your child's needs. While some children do very well with one-to-one tuition, others learn better in small group classes. Group tuition (e.g. DAI weekly workshops) also provides a valuable social element, and an opportunity to meet other children and young people with dyslexia.

Sourcing a Tutor

DAI maintains nationwide lists of self-employed dyslexia tutors. These are qualified teachers who have also done some specialist training in dyslexia. Tutors on the list are required to be current members of DAI which helps to keep them up-to-date with current issues, and they can avail of DAI training seminars and conferences to further their specialist knowledge.

It must be stressed that the DAI tutor list is based solely on the educational qualifications of the teachers and is not a warranty in respect of any other matter. The arrangement between tutor and student (and parent) is a private matter and the Dyslexia Association does not accept liability in relation to this arrangement. In particular the Association is concerned that parents should be aware that the safety, well-being and happiness of their child should be their first consideration in any arrangements they may enter into with a teacher. DAI simply acts as a contact service, and we have no financial arrangement with these tutors. Please note that these teachers have not been subject to Garda vetting by DAI as they are self-employed. DAI endeavours to keep the tutor list as up to date as possible, with tutors required to inform us if they are no longer offering tuition services.

Local DAI tutor lists are available to current DAI members. Please contact us at 01 8776001 or email info@dyslexia.ie for further information.

You may also be able to source a tutor locally, e.g. a recommendation from your school/college or from word of mouth.

Issues to consider when engaging a tutor

Cost:

Tutors generally charge €30 to €35 per hour. As they are self-employed, each tutor will have their own rates. Some may offer reduced rates if you are on low income. Do ask the tutor what their policy is in relation to payment for cancelled or missed classes. If the tutor is coming to you they may ask for travel costs (if the distance is great).

Length and Frequency:

The length and frequency of sessions should be based on the age and needs of the individual child or young person. For older students and adults their needs may be intermittent, fluctuating over the year depending on workload demands.

Tutor Qualifications:

Tutors should be able to provide you with details of their teaching qualifications and relevant work experience. Most will also be able to provide evidence of their registration with the Teaching Council. You can also ask for written and verbal references which should be available. While some tutors will have experience working with people of all ages, others will specialise with specific age groups, i.e. primary, secondary, third level, and adults. Consider what type of tutor qualification/experience will best match your needs.

Tuition Plan:

Be as specific as possible with the tutor in relation to the exact areas you need the tuition to focus on at any point in time. Agree the frequency with which you will get feedback on progress. Parents may like to sit in on the tuition session to learn how they can reinforce the work done on subsequent days at home.