Dyslexia Ireland

POLICY COVERSHEET

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Guidelines on Individual Tuition

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

It is important to consider whether individual tuition is suited to the person or their child's needs. While some do very well with one-to-one tuition, others learn better in small group settings. Group tuition (e.g. Dyslexia Ireland's weekly workshops) also provides a valuable social element, and an opportunity to meet other children and young people with dyslexia and or dyscalculia.

Sourcing a Tutor

Dyslexia Ireland maintains a nationwide list of self-employed 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 Dyslexia Ireland which helps to keep them up-to-date with current issues, and they can avail of Dyslexia Ireland training seminars to further their specialist knowledge.

It must be stressed that the Dyslexia Ireland tutor list is based solely on the educational qualifications of the tutors and is not a warranty in respect of any other matter. The arrangement between tutor and student (and parent) is a private matter and Dyslexia Ireland does not accept liability in relation to this arrangement. In particular, Dyslexia Ireland 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. Dyslexia Ireland simply acts as a contact service, and we have no financial arrangement with these tutors or oversight of their work. Please note that as tutors are self-employed, Dyslexia Ireland is not permitted to conduct Garda vetting on these individuals.

Dyslexia Ireland 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.

Dyslexia Ireland tutor lists are only available to current Dyslexia Ireland members on request. Please contact us at 01 8776001 or email info@dyslexia.ie for further information.

Aside from the individuals on our tutor list, 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

Tutor Qualifications:
Tutors should be able to provide you with details of their teaching qualifications and relevant work experience. Tutors should have a recognised teaching qualification (i.e. B.Ed, PGCE, PME, or H.Dip) and should be registered or eligible for registration with the Teaching Council. You can search the register of teachers on the Teaching Council website to verify that an individual is a registered teacher.

In addition, tutors should have some additional training on working with learners who have dyslexia, for example the Dyslexia Ireland Teachers Course on Dyslexia, a postgraduate qualification in SEN, or a Masters in SLD/Dyslexia.

You can also ask for written and verbal references which should be made 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.

Tutors on the current Dyslexia Ireland Tutor List can write that they are on the Dyslexia Ireland tutor list, but may not use the Dyslexia Ireland logo. Please see our Copyright and Use of Logo guidance on our website.

Length and Frequency:
The length and frequency of tutorial sessions should be based on the age and needs of the individual. For older students and adults their needs may be intermittent, fluctuating over the year depending on workload demands, whereas younger learners may benefit from more regular and frequent support delivered in shorter sessions.

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.
- Ask the tutor to explain the programmes and teaching methods they will be using. Make sure these are evidence-based and aligned with the science of reading.
- 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.

Cost:

As these tutors are self-employed, each tutor sets their own rates and is responsible for paying the relevant taxes on tutoring earnings. Some tutors 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.