



Dysgraphia - Developmental learning disorder with impairment in written expression (1)

Developmental learning disorder with impairment in written expression is characterised by significant and persistent difficulties in learning academic skills related to writing, such as spelling accuracy, grammar and punctuation accuracy, and organisation and coherence of ideas in writing. The individual's performance in written expression is markedly below what would be expected for chronological age and level of intellectual functioning and results in significant impairment in the individual's academic or occupational functioning.

Developmental learning disorder with impairment in written expression is not due to a disorder of intellectual development, sensory impairment (vision or hearing), a neurological or motor disorder, lack of availability of education, lack of proficiency in the language of academic instruction, or psychosocial adversity.

IMPAIRMENT IN WRITTEN EXPRESSION

- Dictation: Have students dictate their ideas to you or a scribe. This can help bypass the physical act of writing and focus on the content.
- Adapting Assignments: Offer students choices in writing assignments to cater to their interests and strengths.
- Adjust the length of writing assignments to match the student's abilities.

SPELLING ACCURACY

- Use speech-to-text software to allow students to dictate their writing.
- Multisensory approach: Using the different senses to learn spelling, for example, writing a word with the finger in the sand, saying it out loud while writing, or using coloured aids to distinguish letters.

GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION ACCURACY

- Writing Apps: Explore writing apps that offer features like grammar checking, word prediction, and visual organizers.
- Regular short practice: Short but frequent spelling practice is more effective than long, one-off learning. It may include spelling games, quizzes, or quick exercises.
- Regular exposure to words helps reinforce knowledge without being too exhausting.

ORGANISATION AND COHERENCE OF IDEAS IN WRITING

- Visual Supports: Graphic Organizers: Use tools like mind maps, Venn diagrams, and flowcharts to help students organize their thoughts visually before writing.
- Visual Cues: Provide pictures, symbols, or diagrams to support understanding and stimulate writing.



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DISCREPANCY BETWEEN INTELLECT AND PERFORMANCE IN WRITTEN EXPRESSION

- Use of Technology: Allow the use of voice recognition software or writing apps. Programs like Google Docs offer voice input, which can be very helpful.
- Alternative Forms of Expression: Allow students to use other forms to demonstrate their knowledge (presentations, videos, comic strips, oral presentations).
- Allow students more time for writing assignments or tests if possible. Alternatively, they may write shorter texts.

TROUBLE FORMING LETTERS SHAPES

- Use handwriting worksheets with dotted letters or lined paper to help guide letter formation. These can include letters with arrows showing the correct strokes.
- Have students practice writing letters in the air with their finger or trace large letters on a board or desk.
- Start by having students write large letters on a whiteboard or piece of paper, then gradually reduce the size as they become more confident with forming the shapes.

TIGHT, AWKWARD, OR PAINFUL GRIP ON A PENCIL

- Use of adaptive pencils, thicker pencils, pencil grips, or triangular pencils designed to improve grip and comfort when writing.
- Have students shake their hands or stretch their fingers before writing to loosen muscles.
- Encourage practising with minimal pressure on the pencil to avoid gripping too tightly.

DIFFICULTY FOLLOWING A LINE OR STAYING WITHIN MARGINS

- Use paper with bold or coloured lines or raised lines that provide a tactile cue for where to write.
- Have students use their finger to track lines or margins as they write, guiding their hand along the path.
- Provide slant boards to help students position their paper at an angle that is more comfortable for writing.
- Provide visual reminders or posters that show how to align text properly within margins.

PRONOUNCED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPOKEN AND WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING OF A TOPIC

- Have students discuss the topic verbally with peers or teachers before writing about it.
- Incorporate videos, podcasts, or presentations related to the topic to enhance understanding before writing.
- Encourage regular writing assignments that allow students to practice articulating their spoken ideas in writing.



Dysgraphia - Developmental learning disorder with impairment in written expression (3)

UNDERDEVELOPED MOTOR SKILLS

Difficulties with
fine motor skills
(pencil grip, hand-
eye coordination)

IMPACT ON WRITING

Messy, illegible
handwriting
Slow writing speed
Hand fatigue

SPATIAL PERCEPTION

Unsure where to
start, size letters
appropriately, or
position them
correctly.

VISUAL DISCRIMINATION

Reversing letters
and numbers
Mirroring letters

READING DIFFICULTIES

Trouble
distinguishing
words, especially
those that differ by
only a small detail.



Annex for dysgraphia - Developmental learning disorder with impairment in written expression

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- Ergonomic pens, pencil grips, and weighted writing utensils
- Teaching strategies: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/dysgraphia-teaching-strategies-exercises.html>
- Dysgraphia worksheets. <https://www.twinkl.cz/search?q=dysgraphia+worksheets&c=55&r=parent>
- Pencil control: <https://www.twinkl.cz/search?q=pencil+control&c=55&r=parent>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ICD-11. <https://icd.who.int/browse/2024-01/mms/en#1498766637>
- **Krejčová L.** *Dyslexie. Psychologické souvislosti.* Grada. 2019
- **Peter J. Chung, Dilip R. Patel, Iman Nizami.** *Disorder of written expression and dysgraphia: definition, diagnosis, and management.* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7082241/>

WANT TO KNOW MORE SECTION

- <https://www.twinkl.cz/teaching-wiki/dysgraphia>
- <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/23294-dysgraphia>
- <https://dyslexiaida.org/understanding-dysgraphia/>
- <https://dsf.net.au/learning-difficulties/dysgraphia/what-is-dysgraphia>