

## Nursing Students with Dyslexia on Placement

### Strategies to Support Students

The key support to offer students with dyslexia undertaking a placement is planning. All students registered with the DSS undergo a needs assessment and a Learning Educational Needs Summary (LENS) is produced. With the student's permission, this LENS could be given to the placement co-coordinator or other relevant staff so they are aware of possible difficulties before they arise. The student themselves should be encouraged to take stock of their strengths and weaknesses so that they too can pre-empt difficulties and plan to deal with them. Students should be encouraged to discuss their difficulties with their coordinator.

Difficulty	Possible Strategy
<p><b>Handover-</b> Difficulties arise when students must note down facts quickly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students could create a reminder sheet for the handovers. They could use this sheet to remind them off all the information they need to ask and note down. If some of the information is already inserted then this will save them time when writing</li> <li>● Also students should find a quiet space away from distractions to read over documentation</li> <li>● They should practice reading completed common documents/forms</li> <li>● Practice completing handover sheets</li> <li>● Practice reading nursing terms</li> </ul>
<p><b>Writing Reports –</b> Students are often unaware of what is expected with them. Also spelling difficulties slow students down. Slow writing speed is also a difficulty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students should ask someone to check their work</li> <li>● They should minimise the punctuation they use</li> <li>● Learn clinical spellings or have a small notebook with them with difficult spellings noted for reference</li> <li>● Create a list of phrases they can use regularly</li> <li>● Copy words or terminology from client notes</li> <li>● Students should practice their writing to improve their speed</li> <li>● <u>Where possible</u> students could use a dictaphone to speak their notes and write up the notes when they have more time</li> </ul>



<p><b>Lack of confidence-</b> Can be caused by lack of understanding of their difficulties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should disclose their difficulties early on so their coordinators understand their difficulties</li> <li>• Students should be encouraged to work to their strengths and address their difficulties</li> <li>• Constructive criticism should be given</li> <li>• Reasonable adjustments should be put in place to support students to allow them to reach their potential</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of consistency in instructions-</b> This difficulty arises when students are given different instructions by different nurses on duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try have a common approach to the instructions that are provided to students</li> <li>• Allow students to ask for clarification</li> <li>• Provide students with written instructions initially</li> <li>• <u>Where possible</u> allow students to record instructions on their dictaphone</li> </ul>

**Assistive technology** is also available to support students. The DSS can carry out an *Assistive Technology Assessment* with the student to recommend suitable and appropriate technology. This can be done in conjunction with their placement coordinator also.