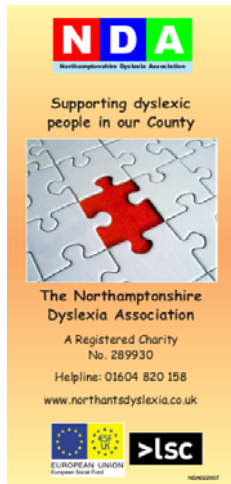




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Information Sheets

Dyspraxia 'the cousin of Dyslexia'

See also the Dyspraxia Foundation website by clicking on this link:

http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/services/dys_dyspraxia.php

What is dyspraxia?

The Dyspraxia Foundation defines developmental dyspraxia as: "an impairment or immaturity of the organisation of movement. It is an immaturity in the way that the brain processes information, which results in messages not being properly or fully transmitted. The term dyspraxia comes from the word praxis, which means 'doing, acting'. Dyspraxia affects the planning of what to do and how to do it. It is associated with problems of perception, language and thought."

It is estimated that Dyspraxia affects ten per cent of the population and up to two per cent severely. Like dyslexia, dyspraxia can run in families. There is often an overlap with other related conditions such as dyslexia. Dyspraxia is also known as Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD), Perceptuo-Motor Dysfunction, and Motor Learning Difficulties.

Dyspraxia does not affect a persons learning abilities, rather, the learning environment can be disabling for the individual if the staff are not properly trained or learning resources are inadequate.

Information
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Dyspraxia 'the cousin of Dyslexia' (ctd)

Signs that may suggest the presence of dyspraxia include excessive clumsiness (e.g. when comparing two siblings in a family) or late development of certain skills/very slow reflexes (e.g. getting dressed, riding a bike, tying shoelaces, catching a ball).

Dyspraxia is a complex neurological disorder - it is caused by an immaturity in neurone development in the brain. Scientists still do not largely understand it; consequently it is often misdiagnosed or missed completely. However the effects are very real and persistent and without skilled intervention it can lead to social problems and anxiety amongst individuals with dyspraxia. With the right intervention and support dyspraxia can often be managed successfully.

For help contact your local GP, SNIP (Northants Parent Partnership, tel. 01604 636 111) or the Dyspraxia Foundation. There is a Dyspraxia Foundation local coordinator in many counties including Northamptonshire - click the link above.

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