

The Neuro-diverse child



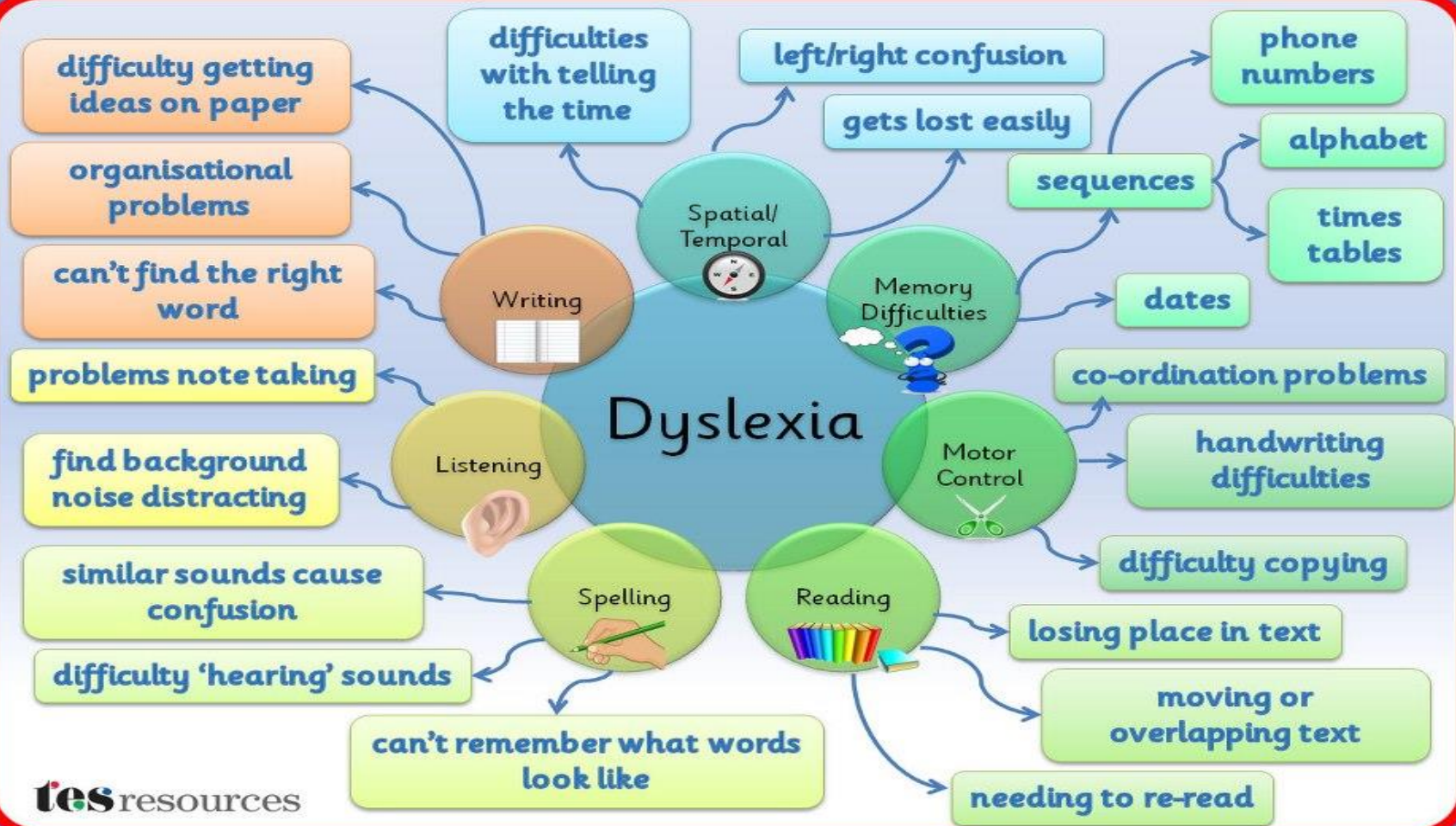
Common myths:

- Dyslexic? – lazy kid who can't read, can't write, can't spell
- Dyspraxic? – clumsy kid who can't do sports.
- Dyscalculia? – trouble maker who can't/won't do maths

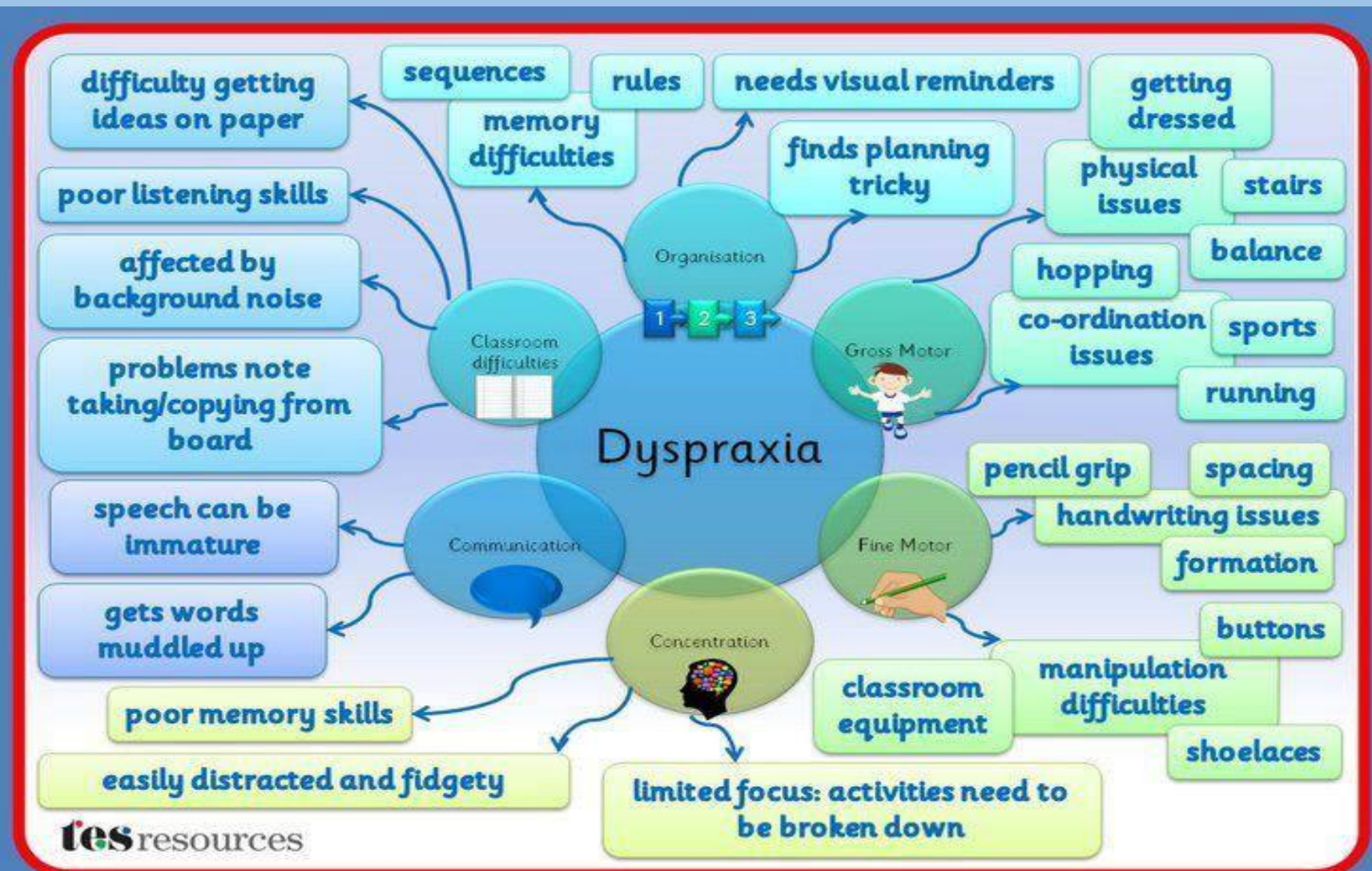
A few home truths:

- Children with a Specific Learning Difference are working harder just to try and keep up.
- Some days it feels like wading through treacle.
- From the age of 4 they spend 6 hours a day in an environment that values the very things they are not designed to excel at.

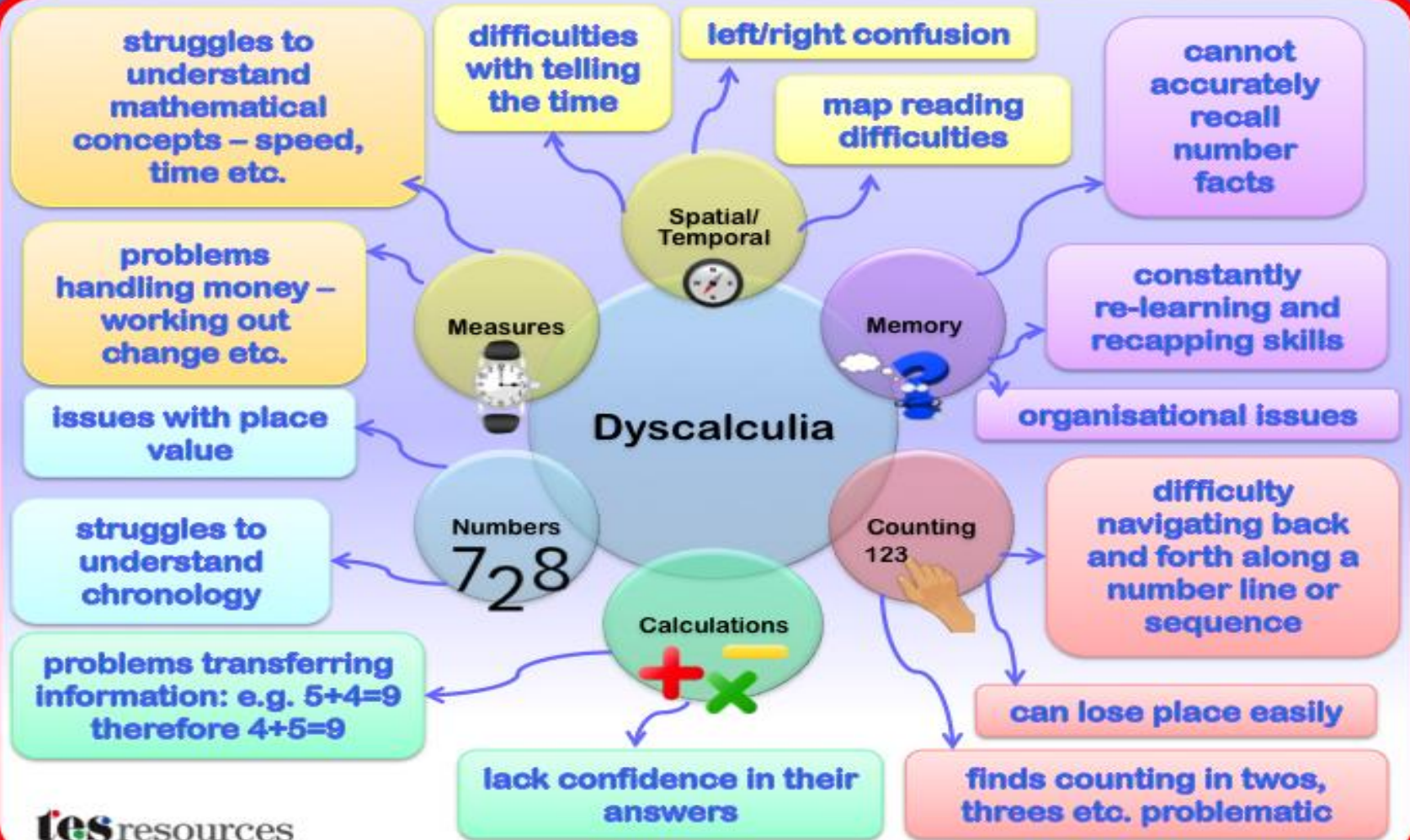
Dyslexia



Dyspraxia



Dyscalculia



Having a 'dys' child

- There is a genetic link
- There is often an overlap of characteristics
- Co-occurs with ADHD
- No two children are the same



Are the different labels
useful?

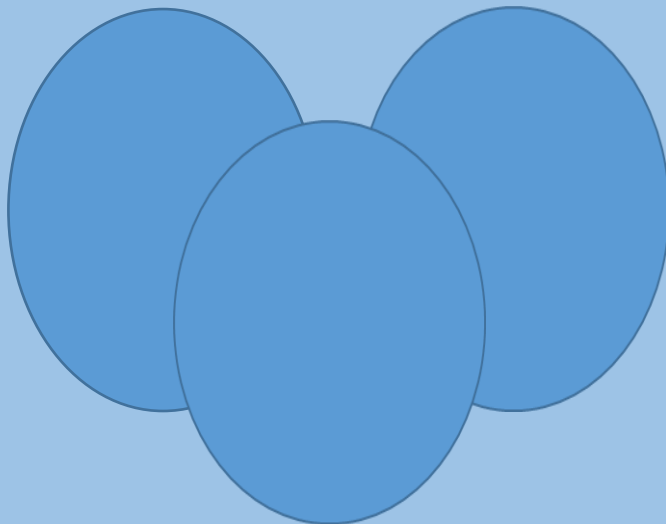
Yes

- It's who you are – own it!
- It's not my fault – my brain **works** differently
- Starting point to find help and what works



No

- “I can’t” syndrome
- Low expectations
- Primary label becomes ‘the one’
- We forget it is a spectrum of over-lapping spectrums

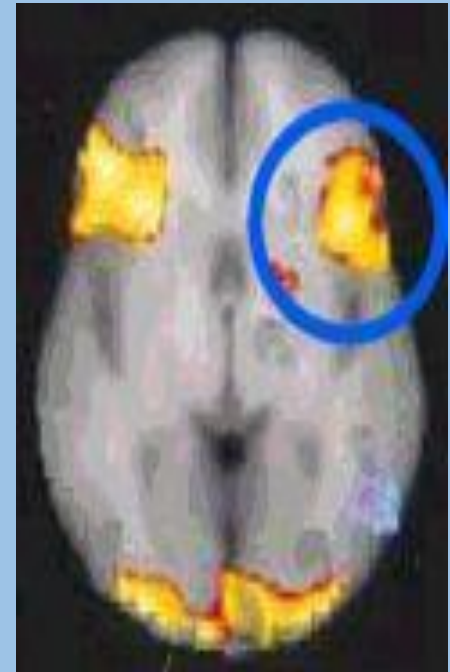


Why can't you read or spell?

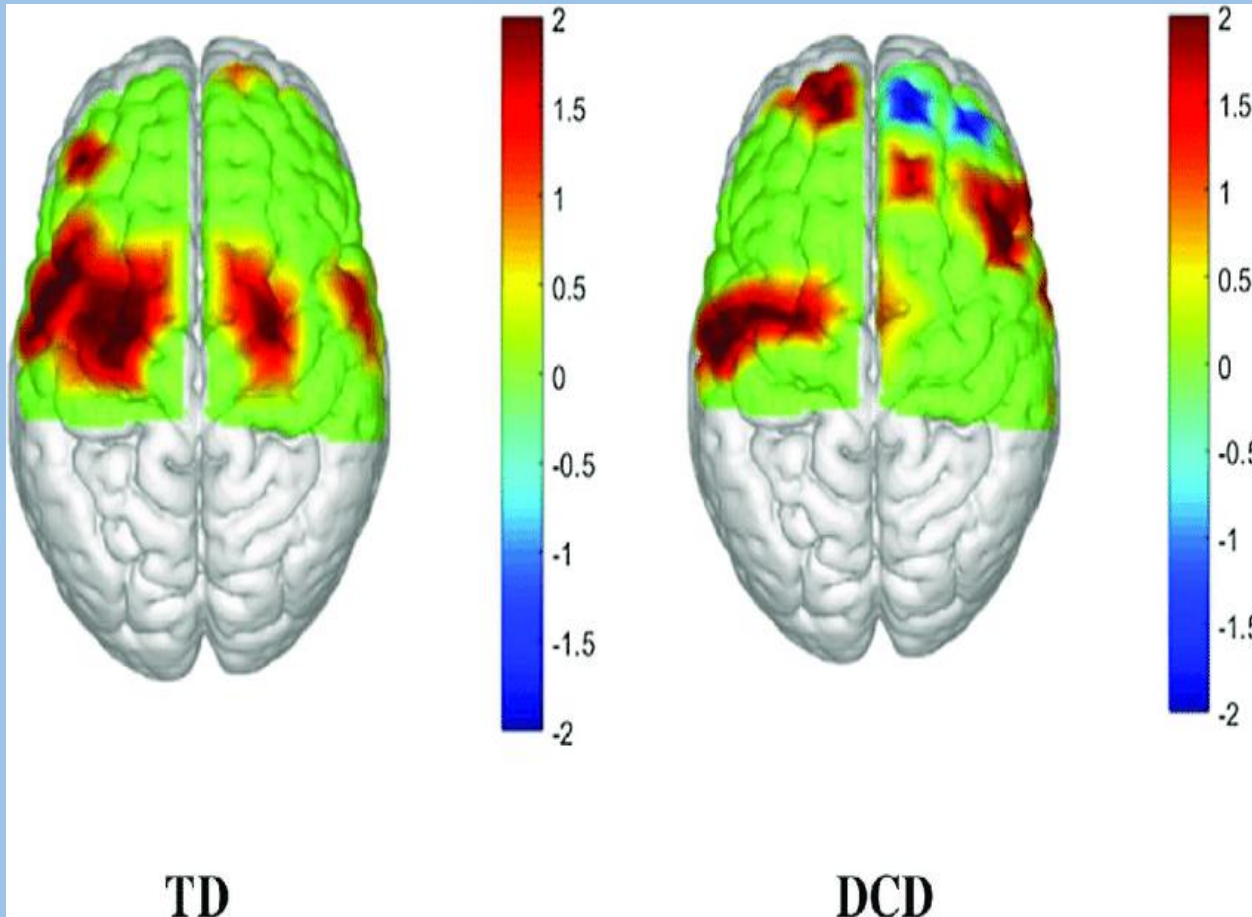


NT readers use the left part of the brain to sound out words (phonological processing)

Dyslexic readers use the right part of their brain to make sense of what they are reading.



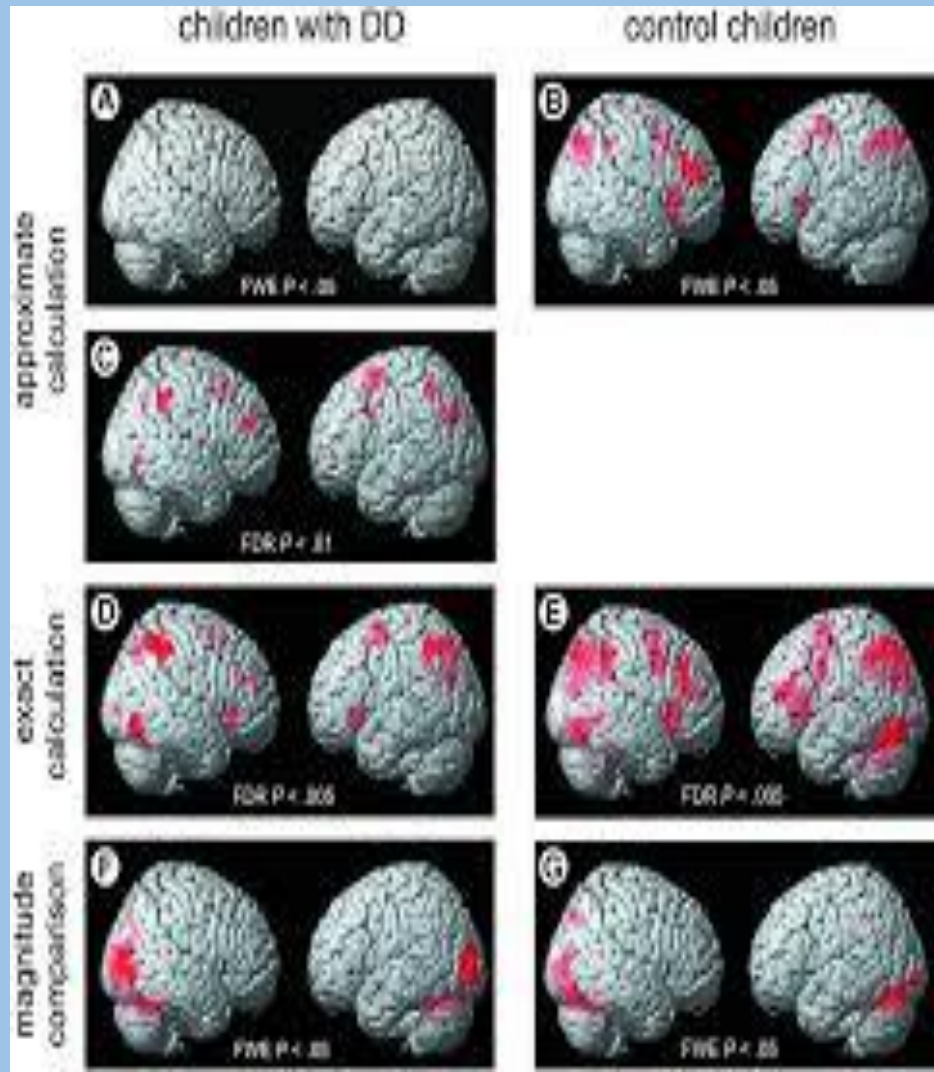
Why can't you do this?



NT children use more of one area to perform motor tasks.

Children with dyspraxia use more areas and have less 'mirror neurons' which makes copying actions harder.

Just try harder!



Children with dyscalculia use less of their maths brain areas than NT children to perform anything involving numbers, amounts and sequences.

What's the difference?



Same information

Different
processing
operations

But what often happens....



Top Ten Tips

- Disclaimer:
- They don't work for every child
- They don't work all the time
- They are an aid not a 'cure'

1. A picture paints a thousand words

- **Go and get:**

- Your swimming costume
- Your goggles
- Your towel
- Your hat
- Your flip-flops



2. Colour

No one reads better
with black and white

3. Accept the unconventional



4. Read Read Read – everything!

- 1. Language sounds great
- 2. Give big words and long sentences
- 3. Allow imagination to flow from descriptions
- 4. Inspire a reader
- 5. Play to the strengths - what do you think could happen next?

5. Own it!

“I have dys... so I am
fabulous at
but I find difficult”

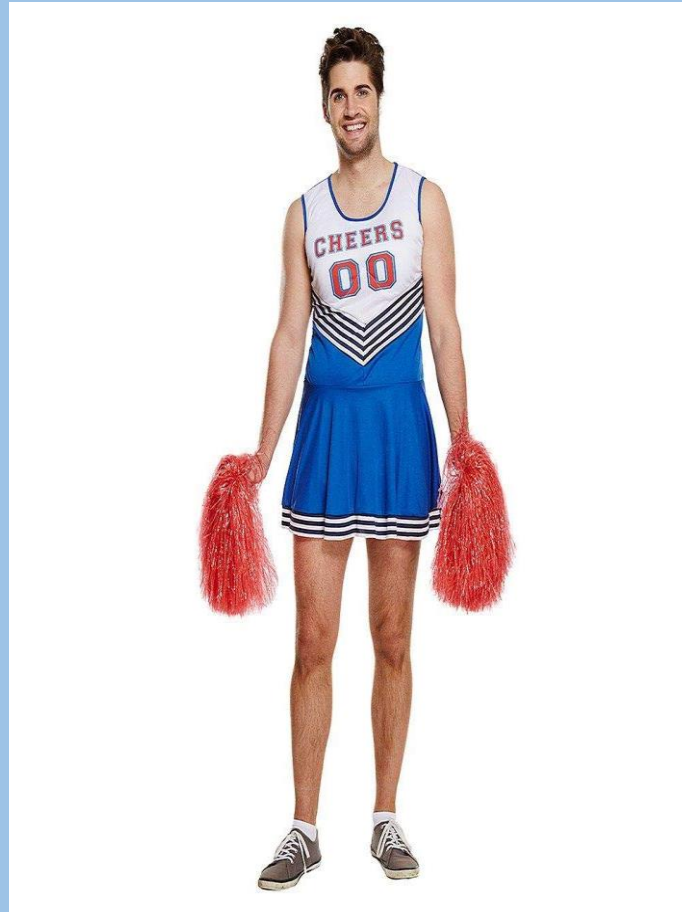
6. Find their strengths



7. Use all the tools available

- Learn to touch type
- Use a spell check
- Grammarly (other similar programmes are available)
- Draw it before you write it
- Voice record ideas
- Text with pictures
- Use a calculator / objects
- Use a digital clock

8. Leave the teaching to the teacher



9. I would if I could,
but I can't so I won't (yet!)



DYSLEXIA?

I am stupid.

Nobody would ever say

I have a talent for words

I was meant to be great.

That is wrong.

I am a failure.

Nobody could ever convince me to think that

I can make it in life.

NOW READ UP↑↑↑😊



By AO

Our children see
the world
differently,

Remember this
is a gift that
needs to be
unearthed not
cured.

Note:

- Do not assume being a teacher makes them an expert in all SEN
- Do not be afraid to educate your child's teacher on their dys or them
- Be a pest!
- Make friends with the SEN Governor
- Be wary of 'cures' – many are useful but don't expect to turn a mac into a windows!

Useful resources (tried and tested by a mum)

- <https://www.webmd.com/children/helping-children-with-dyslexia#1>
- <https://childmind.org/article/understanding-dyslexia/>
- <https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/12-tips-to-help-kids-with-dyslexia-learn-sight-words>
- <https://blog.brainbalancecenters.com/2016/10/7-practical-ways-parents-can-help-child-dyscalculia>
- <https://childmind.org/article/how-to-help-kids-dyscalculia/>
- <https://study.com/academy/lesson/math-games-for-dyscalculia-in-the-classroom.html>
- <https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/child-learning-disabilities/dyspraxia/dyspraxia-strategies-you-can-try-at-home>

Thank you for your time

- Questions:

