

## **Dysgraphia**

Dysgraphia (generally referred to as agraphia) can be acquired through a brain injury, disease, or degenerative condition. This can cause the individual to lose previous skills in writing. Developmental dysgraphia is a difficulty in acquiring writing skills, generally discovered when children start learning to write. Converting the sounds of language into written form (phonemes into graphemes) is challenging for those with dysgraphia. It can present as a difficulty writing; avoidance of writing or drawing; illegible handwriting; tiring quickly while writing; difficulty organising thoughts on paper and omitting or leaving words unfinished in writing.

Developmental dysgraphia can be categorised into the following subgroups:

1. Spatial Dysgraphia is characterised as a difficulty understanding the spaces between letters or words and keeping writing on the lines.
2. Dyslexia Dysgraphia can present as illegible handwriting with spelling errors when writing spontaneously; however, copied work can be neat and error free.
3. Motor Dysgraphia is due to poor fine motor skills, poor muscle tone, poor dexterity, and unspecified motor clumsiness. Written work can be illegible.

## **Top Tips to Support Learning**

- Allow extra time to complete written tasks
- Utilising assistive technology (voice to text) to reduce the amount of written work required
- Use of a scribe
- Providing templates/scaffolding to support written tasks
- Using verbal mind-mapping sessions to support work
- Showing examples of completed projects
- Providing written information of tasks, rather than expecting learner to make notes of verbal instructions given
- Providing supporting material prior to the training session
- Where possible, consider alternative assessment practices that do not require writing. For example, a project presentation

## **Resources**

### **Dictate on Microsoft Word**

When in Microsoft Word, click on 'Home' and 'Dictate'. This allows you to speak rather than type words.

## **Mind Mapping Software**

Simple Mind app

Basic app is free, add-ons need to be paid for.

## **MS OneNote**

This simple and very visual software can help organise various media into one document; thoughts, ideas, links to web pages, images, voice recordings can all be embedded into the document.