

What is Dyspraxia?

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Dyspraxia is the medical term used to describe difficulties with the co-ordination and execution of purposeful movements. Apraxia is the term used to describe the complete loss of this ability.

If you have dyspraxia the following may be affected:

- Gross and fine motor skills
- Motor planning/ organisation of movement
- Ability to carry out activities of daily living
- Speech intelligibility
- Ability to eat and drink

Why does dyspraxia occur?

Dyspraxia may occur as a result from:

- Head/ brain injury
- Brain or spinal surgery
- Neurological conditions
- Stroke
- Dementia

Dyspraxia and Speech

Sometimes dyspraxia can affect your ability to produce speech. This is called Apraxia of Speech (AoS) or verbal dyspraxia. AoS is the result of damage to the parts of the brain that control speaking.

Symptoms of AoS range in severity and can include:

- Difficulty initiating speech sounds
- Difficulty initiating non speech movements
- 'Groping' when trying to produce sounds
- Inability to produce sound
- Slow rate of speech

You may find it easier to produce "automatic speech" (e.g. counting or learnt phrases such as "how are you?").

How is dyspraxia assessed?

You will be seen by a Speech and Language Therapist who will assess your speech and provide a therapy plan.

How is dyspraxia managed?

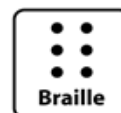
The Speech and Language Therapist will plan and carry out a treatment programme with you. You will jointly set achievable, realistic goals to work towards.

The duration and content of this approach will vary from person to person depending on the presentation and severity of the dyspraxia.

Further Information

Please telephone the Speech and Language Therapy Department on Tel: (0151) 529 4986 or visit the Dyspraxia Foundation website for further information about dyspraxia in adults.

<http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/dyspraxia-adults/>



If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

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