#### What Strategies Can Help?

There are many ways to help a person with dysgraphia achieve success. Generally strategies fall into three main categories:

- 1. **Accommodations:** providing alternatives to written expression
- 2. **Modifications**: changing expectations or tasks to minimize or avoid the area of weakness
- 3. **Remediation:** providing instruction for improving handwriting and writing skills



# Dysgraphia

"Dysgraphia is a learning disability that affects writing, which requires a complex set of motor and information processing skills.

Dysgraphia makes the act of writing difficult. It can lead to problems with spelling, poor handwriting and putting thoughts on paper."

www.ncld.org

EducationPossible.com

Do you need Assistance? Call the following Number

Esheøs Learning Center 662 ó 7206.

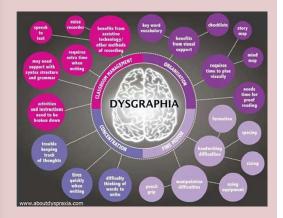
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EDSE 6001: Nature and Needs of Exceptionalities

# A Guide to DYSGRAPHIA



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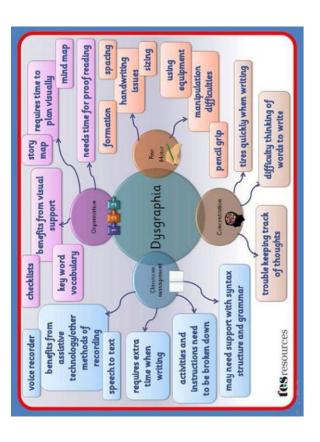
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## **Dysgraphia**

## What is Dysgraphia?

**Dysgraphia** is a learning disability that affects writing, which requires a complex set of motor and information processing skills. Dysgraphia makes the act of writing difficult.



# Dysgraphia Warning Signs By Age

### Young Children

- Tight, awkward pencil grip and body position
- Avoiding writing or drawing tasks
- Trouble forming letter shapes
- Inconsistent spacing between letters or words
- Poor understanding of uppercase and lowercase letters
- Inability to write or draw in a line or within margins
- Tiring quickly while writing

### School-Age Children

- Illegible handwriting
- Mixture of cursive and print writing
- Saying words out loud while writing
- Concentrating so hard on writing that comprehension of what's written is missed
- Trouble thinking of words to write
- Omitting or not finishing words in sentences

## Teenagers and Adults

- Trouble organizing thoughts on paper
- Trouble keeping track of thoughts already written down
- Difficulty with syntax structure and grammar
- Large gap between written ideas and understanding demonstrated through speech

#### Causes

Research to date has shown orthographic coding in working memory is related to handwriting. Orthographic coding refers to the ability to store unfamiliar written words in working memory while the letters in the word are analyzed during word learning or the ability to create permanent memory of written words linked to their pronunciation and meaning. Children with dysgraphia do not have primary developmental motor disorder, another cause of poor handwriting, but they may have difficulty planning sequential finger movements such as the touching of the thumb to successive fingers on the same hand.