

## Cognition and learning

### Top Tips for developing an Inclusive Learning Environment

- Consider seating arrangements.
- Consider pupil groupings.
- Make use of visuals; e.g. visual timetables, prompt cards, alphabet strips.
- Develop multisensory teaching and learning.
- Consider how colour is used to support learning.
- Use alternative methods of recording; e.g. mind maps, spider diagrams, posters, comic strips, artwork, collage, story boards, drama, role play, small world play, IT (iPad apps such as 'Explain Everything', use of PowerPoint, voice recorders etc).
- Maintain a classroom ethos where mistakes are acceptable and make good learning opportunities, expectations are high and children receive positive feedback and regular praise.
- Practise careful use of adults' language, especially when giving instructions.
- Use children's interests to motivate and inspire.
- Pre-teach vocabulary and difficult concepts.

## Dyslexia Aware Classrooms

Simple changes in the classroom can make the learning environment less stressful for children with dyslexic type learning needs. Ideas include:

- Using a larger font size on worksheets; minimum size 14 and selecting a font such as Comic Sans
- Printing on pastel coloured paper to reduce glare
- Changing the background of the interactive whiteboard to a pastel colour
- Ensuring worksheets are at the appropriate reading level
- Prefacing instructions with children's names and ask them to repeat task instructions back to you or a partner so you can check they have understood the task
- Keeping instructions short and using unambiguous language.
- Considering how to break longer tasks into a series of smaller steps
- Teaching children how to plan tasks using visual methods, e.g. Mind Mapping and Storyboards
- Considering occasionally acting as a scribe for children to record their ideas or considering offering alternative methods of recording for children who struggle to record their work in writing, e.g. mind maps, posters, through drama etc.

Be aware that children with dyslexic type learning needs may have to put twice as much effort in to produce the same amount of work as other children. They may become very tired and fidgety. If so, give them regular breaks and break longer tasks down into a series of smaller steps.