

Dysgraphia information and quiz

Dysgraphia is a learning condition that makes the process of writing difficult, and the product often illegible. Like dyslexia, this condition has nothing to do with cognitive ability; those with dysgraphia can be incredibly bright and articulate, showing their ideas, understanding and creativity in a range of other ways. Without proper diagnosis and support, however, children with dysgraphia are left at a disadvantage, unable to gather their thoughts on paper and demonstrate what they know, which is frustrating and damaging for self-confidence.

Dysgraphia looks different in everyone, and usually changes as your child grows and learns to compensate for their most challenging symptoms. But unsupported dysgraphia can lead down the slippery slope to children thinking of themselves as "stupid" or "slow", with consequences that extend to adulthood.

Use this quick quiz to determine if your child might be showing signs similar to those of dysgraphia and take it to your child's school to help open a productive conversation.

This quiz is created from criteria from the Learning Disabilities Association. This is for guidance and signposting only and not a diagnostic tool. If you have concerns about the possibility of dysgraphia, contact your child's school. An accurate diagnosis can only be made through a qualified assessor. This screener is for personal use only.

Can your child talk confidently about what he knows, but resists writing it down?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child make excuses to try to get out of written homework?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child move in a way that doesn't appear fluid? Do his/her opposite arms and hands ever seem to move out-of-sync with one another?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Is your child restless when writing — jumping out of their seat or asking to move?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Is your child's handwriting illegible? Is it ever so bad that even she can't read it?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child use a random assortment of letter sizes, line spaces, spaces between words, or print and cursive?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child leave out critical facts or details when writing?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child complain that writing or drawing hurts or makes his hand tired?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child seem to avoid colouring or drawing?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child seem to have difficulty picking up small objects?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child hold pencils, pens, crayons, or markers awkwardly?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child omit letters or word endings when writing quickly?

- 4. Very Often
- 3. Often
- 2. Sometimes
- 1. Rarely
- 0. Never

Does your child make spelling errors in common words when writing?

4. Very Often
3. Often
2. Sometimes
1. Rarely
0. Never

Does your child have difficulty following the rules of grammar when writing — but not when speaking?

4. Very Often
3. Often
2. Sometimes
1. Rarely
0. Never

Does your child have trouble using scissors, buttoning clothes, or zipping zips?

4. Very Often
3. Often
2. Sometimes
1. Rarely
0. Never

Scoring:

The higher your score out of a possible 60, the more likely it is that your child should be assessed for dysgraphia.

Next steps and suggested reading:

- Complete this quiz and take it to your child's school to help open a productive conversation.
- Feel free to contact me directly on charlotte@nurtureandthrive.co.uk to discuss your child's needs and options for assessment.
- You can read more about dysgraphia here:
<https://www.studyingwithdyslexiablog.co.uk/blog/alli-cant-write-maria-chivers>