

## IN THIS ISSUE

## Director's message

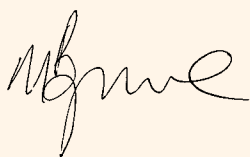
**Welcome to the autumn edition of the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust newsletter. In this edition you will find exciting news about our free information sessions for parents and carers and Dyslexia Awareness Week plus features from the BDA's Dyslexia Friendly Schools Quality Mark project and the Book Trust.**

We welcome the publication by the government of the draft clauses for the SEN provisions in the Children and Families Bill which shows a commitment to identify every child with special educational needs, to provide clear information and advice to parents in the form of a 'local offer' and academies to be included in best endeavours to secure special educational provision. The Trust has also responded to the Secretary of State's GCSE reform announcement. To see the response in full please go to;

<http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/7/news/150/response-to-secretary-of-state-s-announcement-stage-4-qualification-reform/>

We will be launching our new guidance for teachers in support of the phonics screening check this term and the IDP materials will be available from the Trust website. Take a look at our newest resource, a screencast demonstrating effective use of concept mapping; an easy to follow, step by step guide which parents and teachers can use to support their children, dyslexic or not.

Have you logged on to our literacy and dyslexia-SpLD professional development framework yet? We'd love to hear your views.



Mel Byrne  
Director

Director's message

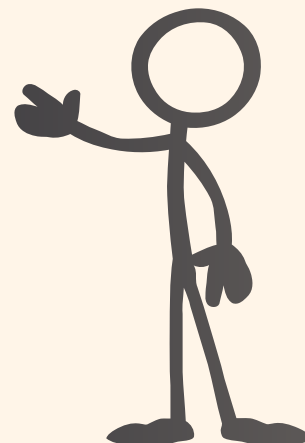
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## Focus on...

### Helping all children develop a love of books By Alexandra Strick - Disability Consultant

**I work in the children's book world, and specialise in making children's books accessible and representative of all children.**

**Much of my day-to-day work is with Booktrust, the independent reading and writing charity, probably best known for programmes like Bookstart which gives free book bags to parents of very young children.**

Booktrust is an organisation which shares my belief that every child should have the right to enjoy books. As such, we put a lot of energy into trying to find books and create materials which are suitable for all. However, we also recognise that there will be some families for whom some extra support can be useful, to help them find the right books and develop a lifelong love of reading.

So, for example, we developed versions of Bookstart for children who are visually impaired (Booktouch) and deaf (Bookshine). Our website ([www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)) offers a host of ideas for great books for all interests and ages, but also has a specific area dedicated to different aspects of disability and reading difficulties ([www.bookmark.org.uk](http://www.bookmark.org.uk)). It features a 'book of the month', news, articles, a blog and a growing range of booklists.

One of my priorities is trying to find new books which are accessible to children with different needs and books featuring positive images of disability. I also work to help mainstream publishers, writers and illustrators to consider the needs of all children. For example, I run a seminar at London Book Fair on making children's books accessible and inclusive, write articles, run training and advise on new books.

I also talk a lot to children, their families and the organisations who work with them. I am always looking for ways to give children themselves a voice about books. For example our new 'What's the Story?' resource (about to appear on the Bookmark site) features personal stories and requests from disabled children and their families.

Next month, to celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Week, Booktrust will also be holding an event with publisher Hot Key Books and author Sally Gardner entitled 'Seeing the World Differently: a Celebration of Reading and Dyslexia.' The event will be held at the Free Word Centre in Farringdon. See the Free Word website for details ([www.freewordonline.com](http://www.freewordonline.com)).

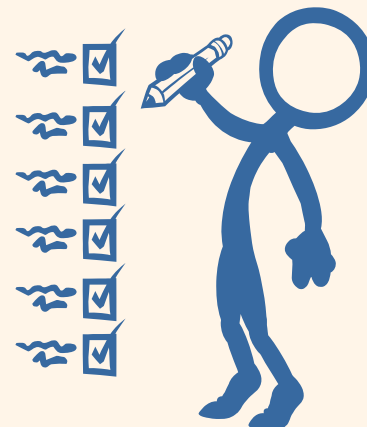
Booktrust and I are always looking for new ways to support children with different needs and raise awareness of those needs. Find out more at [www.bookmark.org.uk](http://www.bookmark.org.uk) and [www.alexandrastrick.co.uk](http://www.alexandrastrick.co.uk).

NB: If you want a direct link to the event details on the Free Word website, you could use the following: <http://www.freewordonline.com/events/detail/seeing-the-world-differently>

## Project highlight

### Dyslexia Friendly Schools Quality Mark by Jo Gregory

**The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark mission statement says, “The philosophy underpinning the BDA Quality Mark is that changing practice to accommodate dyslexic individuals often results in good practice for everyone.”**



The BDA Quality Mark is a nationally recognised external sign that a school has achieved the standards set by the BDA to be dyslexia friendly. The criteria set out in the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark bring out good practice in teaching and learning within an integrated, whole school approach. Many schools have achieved the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark and the impact upon both pupils with, and without, dyslexia has proved to be profound.

The BDA is therefore delighted to be working in partnership with the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust on a project that is helping nine schools in three different education authorities – Leicester, Southwark and Swindon - to achieve the Quality Mark. Once registered onto the programme a school has approximately two years to work through the standards, collect evidence and undergo a verification visit that will determine whether they have achieved Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark status. Most schools start with an audit based around the standards to identify any gaps in provision, which then leads onto an action plan designed to fill those gaps.

The programme is run by BDA Quality Mark development manager, Joanne Gregory, who says, “Some schools have more to do than others and my role is to make sure that everyone enrolled on the programme is given the support they need to succeed in gaining the Quality Mark, so we can ultimately help as many dyslexic individuals as possible.”

The nine schools on the project have also received whole-school dyslexia awareness training during INSET days.

“It has made me more aware of the difficulties that dyslexics face” said one member of staff who attended the training. Another commented “I now feel up skilled as a result of the Inset training.” The Quality Mark process also recognises and celebrates how much schools already have in place to help their dyslexic pupils.

One of the key objectives of the project is to see measurable improvements taking place in participating schools and to cascade information about dyslexia friendly methods to the wider community. To date, all nine schools are on track to achieve BDA Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark status by March 2013.

For further details of the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark please see [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk) or call BDA 0845 251 9003. If you would like more information on this project then please contact Joanne Gregory on 01656 724585 or email [joanneg@bdadyslexia.org.uk](mailto:joanneg@bdadyslexia.org.uk).



## Latest news

### Dyslexia Awareness Week

This year's Dyslexia Awareness Week (DAW) is to be held on Monday 8th - Sunday 14th October. DAW is a great opportunity for dyslexia groups to come together to raise awareness of dyslexia and highlight the support and services available for people with this specific learning difficulty.



This year's theme is 'Empowering Teachers'. There is currently no requirement for teachers to have any training on how to identify dyslexia or even how to support those with it. 10% of the population has dyslexia to a varying degree. That's a huge amount of children in classrooms across the UK! The British Dyslexia Association is campaigning for appropriate and adequate training in dyslexia for teachers and asks that you sign and share the petition to make Dyslexia training a mandatory part of Initial Teacher Training (ITT).

Dyslexia Action will be hosting events in their regional centres to support the work of local teachers and will be making a huge noise on social media - so get involved in the campaign! They are also asking for supporters to join them in the 'Big School Dinner' - host a back to school themed dinner party to create awareness and raise some much needed funds for charity!

The BDA will also be having an art, inventors and writing competition in the age categories of primary school, secondary school and adult and calling for nominations for their annual awards. If you know of someone who has gone to great lengths to help dyslexics, perhaps a volunteer who has gone beyond the call of duty or a teacher, teaching assistant or dyslexia friendly organisation that has given special care and attention and brought out the best in dyslexic individuals, then please nominate them. The full list of categories and how to apply can be found on the BDA website [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

### Empowering Parents and Carers Information Sessions

Empowering Parents and Carers is a collaborative project supported by the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust. The project is being run by Dyslexia Action, British Dyslexia Association, Springboard for Children and Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre to provide support to a wider reach of parents and carers of children and young people with dyslexia. The group will be doing this through drop in surgeries, awareness sessions and workshops and building networks, including a pool of Parent Champions.

A number of free information sessions will run across the country during autumn 2012 and the spring of 2013. The following list contains the sessions currently available with more dates and venues to follow shortly. For more information please ring the appropriate telephone number as shown below, and check for more updates via the link under Diary Dates.

- 6 October, 9.30am to 12.30pm - Dyslexia Action, Bath, Ground Floor Suite, 14 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN (Tel: 01225 420554)



- 6 October, 10am to 1pm, Gracious Street Methodist Church, Gracious Street, Knaresborough HG5 8DS (Tel: 01423 522111)
- 13 October, 10am to 1pm - Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge TN9 1SF (Tel: 01732 352762)
- 20 October, 9am to 11.30am - Bond's Coffee Shop, 36 Bond Street, Chelmsford CM1 1GH (Tel: 01245 259656)
- 10 November, 10am to 1pm - Haywards Heath Town Hall, 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath RH16 1BA (Tel: 01732 352762)
- 10 November, 10am to 1pm - Dyslexia Action, Nottingham, 1A Bridlesmith Gate, Bottle Lane, Nottingham NG1 2GR (Tel 0300 303 8350)
- 23 November, 10am to 1pm - Holy Trinity Church Hall, Upper Brook Street Winchester (Tel: 01962 856195)



## Screencast

Glenys Heap, Head of Educational Development at Dyslexia Action has produced a screencast entitled 'Using graphic organisers to support dyslexic children and students' as part of the Trust's Empowering Parents and Carers project.

The screencast is currently accessible here;  
<http://www.screencast.com/t/c9YGPhM0nPAg>

## Last call to sign the Initial Teacher Training petition

The British Dyslexia Association proposes that Initial Teacher Training course providers should be required to deliver mandatory and consistent dyslexia awareness sessions. All teachers should be trained to understand dyslexia, its impact on learning and what constitutes dyslexia friendly practice. Teachers should be aware of when to signpost learners for assessment and when to provide appropriate intervention.

The petition expires on 31st October so if you haven't signed the petition yet please go to; <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/20674>

## Look who's talking - new films for parents released by The Communication Trust

The Communication Trust have launched a series of four short films, highlighting how young children aged 0-5 learn to speak, listen and interact with their parents or carers.

The four films cover the 0-6 months, 6-12 months, 1-2 and 2-3 years age ranges with actress Kathy Burke providing the 'voice' of the child. They highlight what children respond to and what they struggle with, for example enjoying it when

parents get down to their level but finding it hard to follow lots of instructions.

The films were commissioned by Jean Gross, formerly the Government's Communication Champion for children, to form one of the legacies of the 'Hello' campaign (national year of communication) run in partnership with the Trust.

<http://thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/parents/films-for-parents.aspx>



## AET IDP materials now available

The Autism Education Trust now has their Inclusion Development Programme: Supporting children on the autism spectrum available on their website. The programme is an interactive resource for head teachers, leadership teams, teachers, teaching assistants and the ITT audience and is supported by the Department for Education.

<http://www.aet-idp.org.uk/>

## Diary dates

### Empowering Parents and Carers Information sessions

22nd September – 23rd November, various UK locations

<http://empoweringparentsandcarers.eventbrite.co.uk/>

### Dyslexia Awareness Week 2012

8th – 14th October 2012

<http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/News/dyslexia-awareness-week-2012>

### TES Special Educational Needs Show

12th – 13th October 2012

<http://www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk/Exhibitions/TES+Special+Needs+Exhibition/London/2012/>

### SOS!SEN! 10th Anniversary conference

Saturday 17th November, London

<http://www.sossen.org.uk/reports/SOS!SENConferenceProgramme.pdf>

### Empowering Parents and Carers Conference

Saturday 24th November, Chippenham, Wilts

[http://www.parentchampions.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/epc\\_november\\_2012final.pdf](http://www.parentchampions.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/epc_november_2012final.pdf)





## Your say

### Parent Champions

We have now recruited nearly 200 Parent Champions to our national team. The response to the initiative has been extremely positive with many Parent Champions commenting on how helpful they have found the resources on the website, the information contained in the newsletters and the positive and practical support and advice they have received through the Facebook group.

Here are some comments made by our Parent Champions;

- One Parent Champion had successfully applied for a position as a Teaching Assistant in a class with children with dyslexia;

***“I’m sure I got the job because I had listened to the ‘Ask an Expert’ interviews on the Parent Champions website before I went in. They were really easy to understand and packed with information. I learned loads in a really short time. It gave me the confidence to answer the questions and now I’m really looking forward to the beginning of term. Thank you Parent Champions.”***

***“I am engaging with other parents so effectively and have generated so much interest that I have requested a free Information Session just for my group.”***

***“I really struggled with my relationship with the local school – but I have worked in a positive way and they are now supporting me in my role as Parent Champion and giving me premises to hold the meetings.”***

***“It was such a huge relief to read the newsletter and realise I am not the only mum feeling isolated and struggling to be positive with my son. The tips are really simple ones and I’m feeling much better about myself and the job I’m doing.”***

- Comments made by Parent Champions about the website are;


***‘Easy to understand’, ‘practical’ ‘really useful information’, ‘relevant’ and ‘excellent advice’, ‘I would definitely recommend to others’.***


If you are interested in becoming a Parent Champion please see the website for further details [www.parentchampions.org.uk](http://www.parentchampions.org.uk).

We are always looking for contributors for our newsletters so please get in touch if you have an item you would like to be included in the newsletter. Alternatively if there is something you think we need to cover, please let us know.

Email the Editor, Melissa Wood at [melissa@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk](mailto:melissa@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk)

**Don’t forget to ‘like’ us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for more regular updates.**

 <http://www.facebook.com/dyslexiaspldtrust>

 <https://twitter.com/dyslexiaspld>

