

Dyslexia and IQ are not related

The quality of a person's intellect has no connection to any perceptual difficulties they may have that cause them trouble with reading and spelling.

The greatest damage that can be done to a person with dyslexia is to be put down and made to feel inadequate because they don't respond to the printed word in a way that other people do.

We are all different. We all learn in different ways. Some of us respond best to what is heard, others to what is seen, and yet others to what is experienced through physicality.

There are various approaches to the teaching of reading. The most common method at the present time in schools is 'phonics'. This is taught through sounding out words. So this involves learning through what is heard. But remember, this method does not work with every learner.

Nobody wants to fail. Nobody sets out to fail, least of all a child. The frustration of not achieving, when you have done your best, is difficult to cope with. It is not uncommon for a frustrated learner to feel angry and disappointed and want to throw the book out of the window and never look at it again.

If a learner is trying hard but not doing well, what is probably failing is the teaching method, not the student. That is where the weakness lies. Change the teaching method, and the learner may make much better progress.

The 'more of the same', that didn't work in the first place, is unlikely to work in the second or the third place. If tears of frustration and rage are making everybody's life unbearable, remember the old saying: "There's more than one way to skin a rabbit". Look for a teacher who will offer a completely different approach.

There have been many frustrated dyslexic children who grew up to become high achieving adults in every walk of life – "Smart Dyslexics" who are role models for us all.

Steven Spielberg, Film maker

Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Astronomer and space scientist

Albert Einstein, genius who invented the theory of relativity

Richard Branson, Virgin entrepreneur

Tom Cruise, Film star

Darcy Bussell, Prima ballerina

Yes, dyslexic people are smart and can do anything

Steve Redgrave, Olympic gold medal rower

Lewis Hamilton, Racing driver

Edward James Olmos, Star of the original 'Blade Runner'

Xtraordinary, how many dyslexic people are outstanding achievers

Ingvar Kamprad, Founder of Ikea

Cher, Singer-song writer

Steve Jobs, Founder of Apple

Never let any ignorant person dismiss someone you know as lacking intelligence because they are dyslexic. In every walk of life there are dyslexic people who are outstandingly smart and creative and the highest of high achievers. Encourage the dyslexic people in your life to follow their example and aim high!

Link to an inspirational talk by Sir Ken Robinson on creativity and schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>