

Understanding Dyslexia

The word dyslexia comes from the Greek and means 'difficulty with words'. It is estimated that around 4% of the U.K. population is severely dyslexic with a further 6% having a more moderate form of dyslexia. Some authorities suggest that hairdressing has a much higher proportion due to the fact that people with dyslexia tend to be 'creative'. Dyslexia also tends to run in families, which suggests it is hereditary.

People with dyslexia can and do learn effectively, but often need a different approach. A range of resources is available from the BKSB resources library held by Cheynes Training and the use of these resources are usually 'signposted' through the completion of the BKSB screening tests.

Recognised types of dyslexia include:

- Mears / Erion Syndrome – the main symptoms include visual difficulties
- Dysgraphia – typically identified through difficulties with writing
- Dyspraxia – symptoms include clumsiness and speech difficulties
- Dysphasia – associated with difficulties in word order and pronunciation
- Auditory Dyslexia – normally linked to difficulties with short term memory
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) – symptoms are a lack of concentration
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – as with ADD but very active

Common strengths of people with Dyslexia

People with dyslexia often have very good 'people skills' and there is a suggestion of them being 'right-hand brain thinkers', dyslexia is often associated with...

- Lateral thinkers
- Innovative thinkers
- Intuitive problem solvers
- Excellent problem solvers
- Creativity

Habia, the standards setting body for the hairdressing industry, has developed a written test for dyslexia, should you wish to have one of your team take the test please speak to your RTA or contact Cheynes Training.