

April 2004

Dear SENCO

COMPUTERS AND DYSLEXIA - A one day seminar and workshop

Thursday 27th May 2004 - Papworth Everard, Near Cambridge

As we become more aware of how widespread dyslexia is and how limiting its effects can be, there is a need for earlier identification and more effective remedial action. Computers can help.

But there is also a need for dyslexic people of all ages to be able to express themselves fully and accurately, *despite* the dyslexia, *by-passing* the dyslexia, connecting ability more directly to an end result on paper. Computers can be an extremely effective tool in making this possible. A range of computer techniques, from the very simple to the very sophisticated, provides practical alternatives that can respond to the differences between individuals.

A computer, set up to meet an individual's needs, can be an effective alternative to pen and paper, enabling the user to write more quickly and more accurately ... and to have fun doing so. And the effects are not only seen on paper but also in the self-image and self-confidence of the child or adult concerned.

AbilityNet ... and Dyslexia.

AbilityNet is a charity whose aim is to make the benefits of computers available to people with disabling or limiting conditions. Through its national offices and regional partners AbilityNet provides a freephone information and advice line, individual assessments and awareness training.

Their independent, non-profit status enables them to evaluate and compare all available alternatives without bias. Their approach is practical and pragmatic, judging the value of an idea by its real usability rather than its technical sophistication.

In the field of dyslexia, AbilityNet has brought together a "tool kit" of ideas, approaches and software, from the use of facilities already available on standard computers but too little known, to modern voice recognition systems.

Course Content

The course consists of a seminar interlinked with hands-on sessions. IBM-compatible PCs will be used. There will be explanation and demonstration of a “dyslexia toolkit”. Including:

- Why a computer can help ... and useful free “adjustments”
- Better spell checking and automatic correction ... without cost
- Effective options for presenting text on the computer screen ... without cost
- Useful help with homophones and other confusions
- Word prediction and word banks, Planning tools and mind mapping
- Scanning and optical character recognition
- The computer reading text back ... simple utility or more automated
- Voice recognition ... potential and reality, current systems and criteria for choice

The hands-on work will be in groups of three or four. Each group will work on three areas, reinforcing knowledge through direct experience. The hands on sessions will be focussed around free and cheap solutions, word banks and multi function packages.

Comments from participants in previous dyslexia seminars

“I had no idea what was possible.”

“... practical ideas, even for computer-phobes ...”

“I will be able to pass on some terrific ideas to colleagues”.

Aims

The day is designed to give participants a working understanding of computer-based “get round” techniques for dyslexia. It will enable participants to:

- Ensure that facilities that are available on basic computers are used and not missed
- Help individuals to choose and use the techniques most effective for them
- Make good use of support and advice offered by charities, statutory bodies and suppliers
- Develop policy and practice to bring practical help to bear.
- Implement a range of ‘reasonable adjustments’ towards compliance with DDA and SENDA legislation.

Who should attend?

- Special Educational Needs Coordinators
- Disability Coordinators
- Teachers and tutors
- Educational psychologists
- Social workers, probation officers and others with a special interest
- Representatives of groups working with dyslexia

To book, complete the booking form attached.

AbilityNet East – April 2004

COMPUTERS AND DYSLEXIA COURSE BOOKING FORM

Thursday 27th May 2004 – Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire

Can you please tick the appropriate box:

Which sector are you from?

Education ☐ Healthcare/Community/Charity ☐ Commercial / Business ☐

Other (please specify).....

Please send this form back to: Course Administrator

AbilityNet, PO Box 94, Warwick, CV34 5WS OR

Tel: 01926 312 847 Fax 01926 407 425

Email: courses@abilitynet.org.uk

Course fee £125 + VAT per booking (please contact us for multiple bookings – 3+)

☐ I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to AbilityNet

☐ Please Invoice

Your details

Surname

First Name

Job Title

Name of Employer

Employer's Address.....

.....

Postcode

Tel Number..... **Have you any special requirements?**.....

Fax Number..... **Where did you hear of the seminar?**.....

Email.....

Other AbilityNet SEN Relevant Courses

This year AbilityNet East have a series of courses that aim to help those involved in the Education sector deal with potential problems faced when dealing with SEN students and ICT. Delegates will be introduced to new adaptive technology and shown how to use it.

Improving Curriculum Access through ICT for SEN Students:

There should be no barriers to any pupil with a disability being able to fulfil their potential. A computer can help students regardless of their physical, sensory, reading or writing difficulties. This course aims to give a broad, impartial overview of the technology available, offering practical solutions to help meet the requirements of SENDA and the SEN Framework within a school setting.

29th April 2004 – Papworth Everard

Successful Computing with a Physical Difficulty

Physical difficulties present the most common cause of computer access problems. Anyone responsible for 'reasonable adjustments' within a work, education or social care environment will benefit from this course. It covers the range of alternative and adaptive technology available for those who find using standard equipment a problem.

23rd June 2004 – Papworth Everard

Using ICT to Support Literacy Difficulties among Primary Pupils:

Some primary level pupils exhibit literacy difficulties which are commensurate with the early signs of dyslexia. Unfortunately, the needs of younger pupils are often not catered for on standard dyslexia courses. This course, however, addresses that balance by focusing on primary level pupils and the role that technology can have in both addressing the literacy difficulties and giving them the tools to bypass their problems. The morning session of the course looks at the didactic role that computers can play in addressing spelling, reading and writing difficulties, whereas the afternoon session looks at get round solutions which can help these students achieve success despite their difficulties.

13th October 2004 – Papworth Everard

For further information on these courses or any other that we do please call us on – 01926 312 847.