



What next?

This booklet provides a brief overview of the software on the Dyslexia Network Plus laptop.

As more titles are acquired, it will be updated.

The titles chosen are have all been used extensively with dyslexic people, but they are not the only suitable programs.

If you have a personal successful favourite, please let us know!

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H.E.R.D. is a drop-in session and a bank of resources for those with a pattern of difficulties consistent with dyslexia.

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the **H.E.R.D.**



Software for



Dyslexia

A short guide

Helpful Educational Resources for Dyslexia



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SOFTWARE FOR READING

ClaroReadPlus

Toolbar to provide screen reading facility and tools for handling text

Electronic Library

A library of 300 talking books at different levels that the student can use independently to prepare for reading to someone else.

Lexion

After assessment, there are a range of activities that foster the development of reading skills

Listening Skills

Read the passage (with help from the computer if needed) The harder words are tested and then the passage is dictated for the student to write down on paper—student in control of speed of dictation and can ask for a repeat of a phrase.

Penfriend XL

On-screen keyboard, screen reading window and predictive typing that talks to help build spelling/ writing speed and confidence. Modern language keyboards a real help for special characters in other languages.

Punctuate

Exercises in punctuation with support if required

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage (with help from the computer if needed) then answer multi-choice quiz on the content of the passage.

Sentence Pumper

A variety of activities for making sentences with support.

Synthetic Phonics

Listening and typing activities related to synthetic phonics



SOFTWARE FOR WRITING

Clicker5

A talking wordprocessor with onscreen word/sentence/picture grids that provide support for writing and reading. Lots of talking books and writing activities available, some free from www.clickergrids.com. Also worth looking at *Write Online* from Crick which is a more grown-up online subscription version of Clicker5

Communicate in Print

A talking rebus wordprocessor which allows the dyslexic student to prepare work with support of rebuses for spelling, especially homonyms and the rebuses can be removed to produce 'normal' text for the final printout

SOFTWARE FOR PREDICTIVE TYPING

Penfriend XL

A talking predictive typing program which provides more positive support to a dyslexic user than a conventional spellchecker. Also has onscreen keyboards for special characters in foreign languages. Any text can be pasted into the clipboard for providing a screen reader, but you need the relevant speech engine if you want to use languages other than English

Read and Write Gold

Widely used by advanced students for predictive typing, organising ideas, quotations etc, thesaurus and screen reading—especially if a speech recognition program like Dragon is being used.

SOFTWARE FOR MINDMAPS / ORGANISING IDEAS

Inspiration

Mindmapping program developed for education use and good for helping dyslexic child to organise ideas and plan essays etc

Mind Genius

Originally a business program developed in Scotland, but now developed to be very child friendly for planning work



SOFTWARE FOR SPELLING

Accele Read Accele Write

The cd contains the cards and details of a teaching programme, to be used with a talking wordprocessor. It improves memory and spelling skills

First Keys 2

This keyboard awareness program can also be used with your spelling list to practise spelling

Lexion

There are plenty of spelling practice activities that can be used after assessment or just as exercises

Magic E

Opportunities to learn and practise the magic e rule in spelling

Segmenter

Opportunities to learn and practise segmenting words

Sounds and Rhymes (needs CD in drive)

Opportunities to learn and practise phonic elements of spelling

Starspell

A long established program with lots of spelling lists and you can add your own. Has a very consistent screen display which appeals especially to those with aspergers syndrome

Suffixing

Opportunities to learn and practise suffix elements of spelling

Wordshark

A long established program with lots of spelling lists and you can add your own. Has very busy, lively screens, which appeal to most dyslexic children, but those with dyspraxia may need the speed decreased initially, until their co-ordination skills improve, otherwise they will become frustrated



Read and Write Gold

Widely used by advanced students for predictive typing, organising ideas, quotations etc, thesaurus and screen reading—especially if a speech recognition program like Dragon is being used.

SOFTWARE FOR NUMBER

Lexion

There are plenty of numeracy practice activities that can be used after assessment or just as exercises

Numbershark

A long established program with lots of numeracy activities and you can add your own data. Has very busy, lively screens, which appeal to most dyslexic children, but those with dyspraxia may need the speed decreased initially, until their co-ordination skills improve, otherwise they will become frustrated

SOFTWARE TOOLS

ClaroRead Plus

Toolbar to provide speech support whilst working in Word and several other tools like prediction, spellchecking and a calculator all in a toolbar that you can place where you want to on the screen.

Claro View

A tool to quickly change text/background colour and brightness options

Readable

A tool to set your personal screen display options, including colours, fonts and styles in different applications, especially Word

Read and Write Gold

Widely used by advanced students for predictive typing, organising ideas, quotations etc, thesaurus and screen reading—especially if a speech recognition program like Dragon is being used.



Screen Ruler

A really useful tool that provides a mask over text, so that a small section can be read without the distraction of the rest of the page.

SOFTWARE FOR TYPING

First Keys 2

A keyboard training program designed originally for young children, but the range of words chosen can be selected for the user to practise in several activities.

Type to Learn 3

A tried and tested typing training program

SOFTWARE FOR ASSESSMENT

Lexion

This program was developed in Sweden 18 years ago but has now been translated and normed for use by British children. The tests indicate the child's strengths and weaknesses and provide suggestions for a range of activities to help with remediation. The duration and content can be tweaked by the teacher and the exercises can be run apart from the assessment.

SOFTWARE FOR MEMORY

Brainbooster

Activities to help develop memory skills.

Lexion

Several of the exercises are useful for developing memory skills.