



also encompasses all students with reading difficulties, including those who have dyslexia (specific learning difficulties), as well as those who have made poor progress in reading and may or may not have additional general learning difficulties.

There is a section that describes the different approaches that have been found to work in Irish schools including links to seeing them in action in schools. They include:

- Reading Recovery
- Literacy Lift-Off
- Edmark
- Accelerated/ Accelewrite
- Paired Reading
- Toe by Toe & Toe by Toe with Oral Guided Reading
- Precision Teaching and SNIP
- Wordsworth
- ARROW
- The Wilson Reading System
- Catch-Up Literacy
- Teaching Reading Comprehension Strategies
- Accelerated Reader
- SRA Reading Labs
- Data-informed Intervention

#### **OAKA - Additional Science Revision packs [www.oakabooks.co.uk](http://www.oakabooks.co.uk)**

I have mentioned Oaka revision packs before. Bambi Gardiner and her husband set up Oaka Books because there were no text books that their dyslexic daughter could work with. Written by experienced science teachers and SEN experts, they are perfect for visual learners; designed for dyslexics (complete with phonetic spellings and packed with illustrations) but are effective for all pupils. Topic packs include a topic booklet, workbook and Q&A cards for effective active learning.

#### **The revision packs cover Science, Geography and French.**

They have just published more revision packs. Topics in Science now are:

- Cell Biology
- Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems
- Rates of Reaction
- Enzymes
- Osmosis
- Kidney functions
- Chemical Analysis
- Electrolytic Processes
- Electroplating and Purifying with Electrolysis
- Writing word Equations
- The Periodic Table
- Preparing insoluble Salts
- Momentum and Collisions
- Thermal Energy Processes
- Chemical Titration

#### **OAKA – Games to help with learning key facts in Map Skills and Science**

Oaka have also developed games to help with learning key facts. They include

- Pairs Card games <https://www.oakabooks.co.uk/collections/pairs-games> in Physics, Biology and Chemistry. Simple matching games to help in memorising key definitions and facts.
- Board games <https://www.oakabooks.co.uk/collections/board-games> which include:
  - A Map Skills board game
  - Board games for Physics, Biology and Chemistry.

## Reading Progress in Microsoft Teams to improve student reading fluency

[Reading Progress](#) is a free tool designed to support educators in creating personalized reading experiences that build confidence and reading fluency in their students. Built into Assignments in Teams, Reading Progress passages are easy to create and differentiate for impactful instruction.

[Reading Progress](#) is free and built-in to Microsoft Teams Assignments and works on all platforms, including Desktop, Mac, web, iOS and Android. Educators upload a single reading fluency passage or differentiate for their class' many levels. Students read their passages out loud, creating a recording teachers can access and review at their convenience. Creating recordings allows educators to check students' progress more regularly while also freeing up time for active instruction. By empowering students to complete their reading fluency assignments regularly and independently, Reading Progress keeps the focus on practice and growth, not performing under pressure.

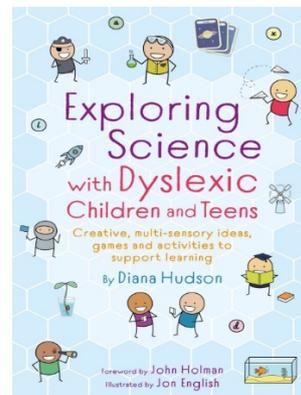
## Teaching Science to Dyslexic Children and Teens: a new book

Hudson D. *Exploring Science with Dyslexic Children and Teens: Creative multi sensory ideas, games, and activities to support learning.* Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2021)

The writer Diana Hudson says 'The book begins by describing the strengths and weaknesses of creative thinkers who have dyslexia. It outlines the reasons that they may struggle in science and gives examples of specific areas of the school science curriculum that are often very challenging for them...It is, however, possible for them to learn and excel in science if a more creative and multi-sensory approach is taken...' Diana has an added advantage as a teacher of dyslexic students (and teacher of teachers who teach dyslexic students!) because she is dyslexic herself.

This book is a collection of ideas, activities and approaches for science learning, to support kids with learning differences aged 9+ to grow in confidence, recall and understanding. The multi-sensory and fun ideas and activities can be adapted to suit individual students' needs and skills, and curriculum stage. Written by an experienced science teacher, the book includes mnemonics, art, drama and poetry activities, board games, card games, and more. All of these strategies will aid neurodiverse students' science learning and memory through boosting their creative

thinking, encouraging a play-based and exploratory approach to science.



## TTRS Touch Type, Read And Spell <https://www.readandspell.com/us/about>

For over 25 years, TTRS has offered a comprehensive, multi-sensory, touch-typing course based on a structured program of phonics with word lists based on the Alpha to Omega Programme. The program aims to build literacy skills and increase confidence and self-esteem in users as they master the art of keyboarding. In addition to developing typing skills, TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties. Learners with dyslexia or literacy issues have found it helpful. The course has a user-friendly interface and, from the very start of the course, students are prompted and talked through what to do, for example: where to place their fingers on the keyboard etc.

**It is now available for free through the Libraries across the county.** All that is needed is that the user is a member of a library. They then get a username and password and can use it on a computer at home or in school.

**Courses for Teachers: both in-service for whole school staff and through the Education Centres.**

We continue to offer schools in-service for the whole school staff. At the moment it is offered as a zoom webinar. It is an hour in length and costs €200.

In January/February we are presenting some courses on dyslexia through the Education Support Centres.

**Wyn McCormack**

**Dyslexia Courses Ireland**

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