

What is DYSPRAXIA?

DYSPRAXIA / DEVELOPMENTAL COORDINATION DISORDER (DCD)

Two definitions:

1. Dyspraxia literally means 'difficulty in carrying out an action' and in the medical world the term specifically denotes difficulty with planning and executing movement. In the educational world, the definition is usually broadened to include difficulty with spatial and perceptual skills and sometimes also social skills.

2. The SpLD Test Evaluation Committee (STEC) DfES Guidelines, 2012 provides the following definition of Developmental Co-ordination Disorder/Dyspraxia:

“Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD), also known as Dyspraxia in the UK, is a common disorder affecting fine or gross motor co-ordination in children and adults. This lifelong condition is formally recognised by international organisations including the World Health Organisation. DCD is distinct from other motor disorders such as Cerebral Palsy and stroke and occurs across the range of intellectual abilities. Individuals may vary in how their difficulties present; these may change over time depending on environmental demands and life experience An individual's co-ordination may affect participation and functioning of everyday life skills in education, work and employment. Children may present with difficulties with self-care, writing, typing, riding a bike and play as well as other educational and recreational activities. In adulthood many of these difficulties will continue, as well as learning new skills at home, in education and work, such as driving car and DIY. There may be a range or co-occurring difficulties which can also have serious negative impacts on daily life. These include social and emotional difficulties as well as problems with time management, planning and personal organisation and these may also affect an adult's education or employment experiences”.

Further information and advice can be found at The Dyspraxia Foundation website:

<https://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/>