Problems faced by dyslexic learners

- Difficulty holding & following a list of auditory instructions
- Listening & taking notes at the same time.
- Organisational problems of all kinds including time management
- Difficulties with new words/word finding/ pronunciation
- Difficulty dealing with abbreviations.
- Takes longer to write - untidy or incoherent writing.
- Difficulties reading and extracting information from text – can take a long time to read and learn
- Difficulty coping with new transport routes, new building layouts, unfamiliar paperwork.
1. “I was, on the whole, considerably discouraged by my school days. It was not pleasant to feel oneself so completely outclassed and left behind at the beginning of the race.”

2. “He was regularly punished in school for failure or lack of effort, sometimes failing the same class numerous times.”

3. “He is too stupid to learn”

4. “As a child I was called stupid and lazy”

5. “His teachers reported that he was mentally slow, unsociable, and adrift forever in his foolish dreams”
Strategies to Support Student Nurses in Practice

“I couldn’t read, I just scraped by. My solution was to read classic comic books because I could figure them out from the context of the pictures”
Charles Schwab (Head of one of the largest Investment Firms in the world)

“Being dyslexic, I had to train myself to focus my attention. I became very visual and learned how to create mental images in order to comprehend what I read”
Tom Cruise

• Appreciate the difficulties and mentor with compassion
• Show, help, watch tasks
• Show, help, watch paperwork
• Show, help, watch Drug rounds
• Reduce verbal lists to one or two tasks – don’t explain things abstractly and expect the student to remember
• Concentrate on one learning experience at a time
• Give a plan of the ward routine/procedures
• Remember the academic demands outside of the placement will be much greater and more time consuming
• Help with common vocabulary – writing reports
• Ask students how best they learn (schools now use a reshaped curriculum to include multisensory learning
References

http://xtraordinarypeople.com

Suggested reading


• McPheat C (2014) Experience of nursing students with dyslexia on clinical placement.

• Nursing Standard. 28, 41, 44-49. Date of submission: June 21 2013; date of acceptance: January 9 2014.