

Chapter One

Introduction

In Chapter One, I present some of my background and aims, and take a look at dyslexia from several angles, in order to get a general picture of the subject.

- The inside story: a portrait of a dyslexic
- Demystifying and legitimizing
- A life 'out of step'...
- Understanding our 'target group'
- Towards understanding the bigger picture
- Learning or knowledge?
- The social environment — and being politically incorrect

The inside story: a portrait of a dyslexic

Concentrating on the muscles of one eye, the one nearest the window, he knew that sometimes, if he stretched his bottom jaw down, and a bit to the other side, he could manage to hold that eye open, and sort of blink with the other eye and, yes, he could wink with both eyes — really, with one eye, and then with the other one, at different times.

The one on the classroom side of his face was easy, and he often winked with that one just to prove he could, and to practise which

Important note

On each page of text, a 'ring of containment' has been strategically placed to facilitate easier participation of dyslexic readers in deciphering the meaning of the text in the book. Operating in a manner similar to that of a fence surrounding a paddock, in the writer's childhood experience, this boundary, or box, serves to help keep the letters, the words, and the reader's eyes from straying off the page during the reading process. Every little bit helps.

Preface

This book follows and complements my earlier books looking at the educational and parenting needs of children who may, or may not, have been given the label 'dyslexic'. In a similar style to my earlier books, I draw on articles I have prepared for magazines, newspapers, radio talks and public talks over my 45 years of work as a child and family psychologist.

Readers are encouraged to use the ideas, share them, develop them and send the developments back to me so that I can collate and promulgate them further. The children, their parents and their teachers need all the help they can get.

I dedicate this book and give grateful thanks to all the parents, teachers and dyslexic children who have embraced this approach to dyslexia, and whose feedback and support have made it all worthwhile.

Laughton King, 2023