

Chess lessons and dyslexia

lecture by Karel van Delft



Hard at chess for dyslexic children

Hard at chess:

- Reading texts
- Writing moves during playing chess games
- Listening to detailed explanations

Say ten dyslexic children at three elementary schools



Lectures by pupils in classroom



Poster tips in Dutch classrooms

Tips dyslexie en schaken

Algemene leertips

- Maak van tekst gesproken taal. Bijvoorbeeld via gratis computerprogramma www.robobraille.org/web3.
- Praat met andere leerlingen over leerstof.
- Kijk op YouTube naar een video over een onderwerp.
- Accepteer de beperking. Als je denkt dat het toch niet kan, lukt het niet.
- Dyslexie is erger als je moe bent. Zorg dat je fit bent.
- Gebruik grote lettertypes.

Tips voor leraar en klas

- Toon begrip.
- Zorg dat het rustig en overzichtelijk is in een klas.
- Presenteer informatie ook in beelden.
- Zet informatie in een lijstje.
- Geef genoeg tijd voor lezen en schrijven.
- Spreek in korte zinnen.
- Zorg dat leren leuk blijft.
- Overleg met dyslectische leerlingen wat beter kan in de les.

Schaaktips

- Dyslectici kunnen goede schakers worden.
- Problemen zijn vooral noteren, lezen, lang luisteren.
- Schaken kun je op veel manieren leren.
- Er zijn veel goede gratis schaakvideo's op internet.
- Je kan vrijstelling van noteren vragen.
- Je kunt samen met de tegenstander zetten noteren.
- Je kunt grote letters en cijfers op een bord maken.
- Door oefenen leer je steeds beter lezen en noteren.
- Probeer te noteren. Zet een partij na afloop in een schaakprogramma.



What is dyslexia

Dyslexia is a collective term for all kinds of problems with language processing.

Dyslexics have trouble with reading and writing, and to listen, talk, remember and learn.

Often children are overwhelmed by the amount of stimuli that they get from their environment.

The degree of dyslexia varies by person. There are several variations and different causes of dyslexia.

More information: see hand-out.



Prevalence

Not clear why boys are more likely to be dyslexic.

Giftedness in combination with dyslexia happens more often.

In three chess classes of Karel van Delft for gifted children 10 of the 61 pupils are diagnosed to have dyslexia.

It varies by country how many dyslexic people there are.

This has to do with regularity of the language.

Research: 5 to 10 % people have dyslexia in some form.



Treatment, guidance, tools

Treatments, guidance and tools are possible.

Mainly has effect at a young age.



Uncertainty, role environment

If you do not perform well, you may become uncertain.

Especially when people around you deal wrong with it and for example think you are lazy or stupid.

Emotional problems of dyslexic children are anxiety to failure, stress, insecurity, sadness and anger.

The environment may incorrectly respond to a child causing emotional problems become even greater.



Strengths

Dyslexics think in pictures rather than words.

Have lively imagination.

Have more overall view.

Often benefit from a different way of learning than is customary.

You can achieve a lot if you are dyslexic.

Examples:

Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Walt Disney and Pablo Picasso.



How to deal with it, empowerment

Use knowledge and experiences.

Create and use productive routines.

Use checklists in next sheets.

This helps empowerment.



General advices

Dyslexia brings learning problems. Possibilities to deal with it:

- Convert text into spoken language. For example, use free computer program www.robobrace.org/web3.
- Learn by doing things in practice.
- Talk to a fellow student about what you learn.
- Check if information is available in a more accessible way.
- Search the internet for a video on a topic.
- Accept disorder emotionally. 'I can not' is a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- Dyslexia plays a greater role when you are tired. Take rest.
- Texts are often more readable in a larger font. Set font size on a computer.
- Choose authors who formulate clear texts.
- Reformulate issues positively. Instead of being easily distracted, you may conclude that you are very aware of your surroundings.



What a teacher can do (1)

- Discuss dyslexia in a classroom, let it not be a taboo.
- Show understanding about limitations.
- Ensure classroom is quiet and orderly.
- Present information in images.
- Use multiple communication channels (text, image, voice).
- Structure information in a list of keywords.
- Give a student more time for tasks.
- Speak in plain short sentences.



What a teacher can do (2)

- Give feedback in small steps.
- Compliment commitment of students.
- Help to develop self-confidence.
- Help to develop study skills in an appropriate way.
- Elaborate on strengths of students.
- Notify on role models.
- Do not criticize all errors.
- Ensure that learning is fun.



Recommendations for chess

- You can learn chess in many different ways.
- Dyslexics can become good chess players, says Richard James in his article 'Chess and special needs education'.
- He points out: if children deliver performances this can provide an important sense of self- esteem.
- You can exempt a young player writing his moves.
- An assistant can write the moves.
- Chess board with larger letters and numbers.
- Parents can encourage dyslexic child to write moves and take errors for granted. Use memory, put moves fast in database.
- Chess teacher can use diagrams, videos and photos.



Sources

English:

'Explorations in Learning and the Brain: On the Potential of Cognitive Neuroscience for Educational Science', Report NWO 2008 (chapter 6 Learning problems)

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Judith Pertz http://users.bart.nl/~jlpertz/muz_dys2.htm#gave

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